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STOMPIN' HIS WAY TO GLORY

HIS SONGS ABOUT CANADA CHRONICLED EVERYTHING FROM BUD THE SPUD TO A SUDBURY SATURDAY NIGHT. STOMPIN' TOM CONNORS DIES AT 77 PAGE 8

Facebook feed to get update

A fresh design of the network's news feed will likely prompt many status updates about how the old Facebook was so much better PAGE 10

Sobering stats on our boozing

Alcohol is one of the greatest public health threats in Canada and the provinces' lack of action is alarming, experts say PAGE 14

On-again off-again

Community cast dishes on turmoil that's put the show's future in jeopardy PAGE 29

NEWS WORTH SHARING.

LEAF KNOCKS THE SENS OUT OF RIVAL

Before the goals came the fights. The Leafs beat the Ottawa Senators 5-4 in Toronto Wednesday, but mayhem erupted when Toronto tough guy Frazer McLaren, right, took on Dave Dziurzynski at a faceoff. McLaren ended the fight violently when he hit the Sens forward with a right to the chin, toppling him face down. Dziurzynski eventually needed help from teammates to skate off the ice. He did not return, and the Sens later said he suffered a concussion. For the story, see page 51. DAVID COOPER/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

OMG this study's so weird. We're like, not even kidding

Evolution of English. Younger Torontonians use intensifiers to amp up meaning, and verbs are getting overhauled

So, like, there's a University of Toronto professor who is so really, really into Canadian English that she got more than 200 native Torontonians to talk and stuff so she could study it, right?

She's like all whatever, explaining how older people don't talk like younger people and girls don't talk like boys and how changes in Toronto English reflect how Canadian English is shifting too.

Eh?

"Everybody thinks that Canadians use a lot of 'eh' — and they do — but they use something else a lot more, at least if they're under 30. And that's 'right,'" says Canadian English-language expert Sali Tagliamonte.

So much for that scene in Argo when CIA "exfil" agent Ben Affleck coaches the U.S. hostages hiding in the Canadian embassy in Tehran how to talk "Toronno" instead of "Toronto."

But don't think we Canadians don't have an accent. "It's a very strong accent and there's a lot of change going on," Tagliamonte insists.

She's in the business of tracking the way language changes, "just like a medical biologist tracks new viruses in any given year."

It was the focus of her Toronto English Project, published in February in a Cambridge University Press volume, The Verb Phrase in English.

"If you listen to your grandmother tell stories, she'll do something like this: 'And he said, "Blah-blah-blah." Then she said, "Blah-blah."'

"But a younger person says: 'And then I said, "OMG. What?" And I'm like, "You're kidding me." And he's like, "I'm not kidding."'"

Intensifiers are adverbs that amp up meaning.

A younger woman might say, "OMG, Bradley Cooper is so, so hot." An older one? "George Clooney is really handsome." TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

BREAKING NEWS...

- Will TDSB make staff cuts? With a projected $55-million deficit, the board is considering major layoffs, including slashing up to 250 teaching jobs.
- Go to metronews.ca for the latest on this story

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U.S. man gets bail in G20 riot case

An American man facing charges in Toronto over the G20 summit in June 2010 will be allowed to return to the U.S. until his trial.

Richard Dean Morano's lawyer said Wednesday the 22-year-old is being freed on $80,000 bail.

Morano was one of two Americans extradited from the U.S. Tuesday on charges stemming from the riots. Morano and Kevin Chianella, 20, face numerous charges, including mischief endangering life. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Brampton businessman

Man gets house arrest for sex assault on teen

A prominent Brampton businessman has been sentenced to four months of house arrest for sexually assaulting an 18-year-old woman two years ago.

Gurmeet Bhangal
TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Gurmeet "Bill" Bhangal, 47, was convicted last month of the assault. An appeal has been filed.

The victim's impact statement shared her struggle with uncontrollable anger and suicidal thoughts since the assault.

"I wanted to kill myself so badly, just so I didn't have to feel nothing any more," she wrote. "I feel worthless." The woman was employed by Bhangal at the time of the assault.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

A rendering of the entrance to the proposed casino and entertainment complex, made by MGM Resorts-Cadillac Fairview, that calls for a massive makeover of Exhibition Place and Ontario Place. CONTRIBUTED

MGM: Take casino, get free Ex entry

Undecided.
Councillors wary of the pitch, which MGM admits is only a picture of what's possible

City councillors hedging their bets on a Toronto casino seem unmoved by a hypothetical vision for a $3-billion lakefront "integrated resort" that would move The Ex and make admission to the fair free.

"On the positive side, this would help an underutilized part of the city," said Coun. Gary Crawford of the MGM Resorts–Cadillac Fairview concept for massive makeovers of Exhibition Place and Ontario Place.

"But I'm looking past all the glitz and glam to substance — like how they'd integrate the CNE," he said, adding that during a private briefing they "didn't understand the fair's history and what it means to the city."

Coun. Maria Augimeri said "my ultimate decision won't be based on the 'wow factor' of a proposal, but: Do we want a vision for a city that is casino-centric?" and the costs associated with that.

Coun. Michael Thompson said of the vision for a 3-million-square-foot complex, including a 1,200-room hotel and high-end shopping mall: "It's interesting, but we're not going to make a decision on that."

The trio is among a handful of undecided councillors who could swing the balance next month in what could be a close vote on whether Toronto should host a casino. There is furious lobbying on both sides.

Reporters got a look yesterday at concept drawings and a tabletop site model that MGM and Cadillac Fairview have been quietly showing to council members and others since February.

"This isn't a proposal," but a vision of what's possible for the site, said MGM's senior vice-president, Alan Feldman.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

What we'd get, maybe

Other features of the MGM-Cadillac Fairview vision:

- Underground parking for 12,000 vehicles
- A permanent 800- to 900-seat Cirque du soleil theatre
- An extra floor of convention space in the Direct Energy Centre
- Expansion of the Martin Goodman Trail so it goes along the Ontario Place waterfront

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SARS lives on in memories of those affected

SARS: 10 years later

This is the first in a series marking the anniversary of the SARS outbreak

It's a thing you notice about the people who came through the SARS crisis of 2003. Survivors, responders — they remember the outbreak in exquisite detail.

Malik Peiris, a Hong Kong microbiologist who helped find the virus responsible for the outbreak, was out for Valentine's Day with his wife when he heard from a contact about rumoured illnesses in China's Guangdong province.

Lena Stewart knows April 1, 2003, was a Tuesday, the day she worked a nursing shift at North York General Hospital with a SARS-infected colleague and caught the virus that changed her life.

Dr. Donald Low, one of the leaders of Toronto's SARS response, recalls poring over patient charts at North York General throughout the Victoria Day weekend, recognizing with a welling sense of dread that a virus Ontario had declared licked a few days before was still spreading.

Ten years on, the six-month outbreak of severe acute respiratory syndrome is as etched in their memories as it is in the annals of medical history. And a fair number of people in Toronto suffer long-term physical consequences of the virus or its treatment, says Paula Gardner, a clinical psychologist at St. John's Rehab, now part of Sunnybrook Health Sciences Centre.

A heavy toll

"Every day feels like it happened yesterday. Every moment of the day feels like it happened yesterday. You have the constant reminders — the pain, the shortness of breath."

Lena Stewart, a former nurse who remains on disability leave with reduced lung function, chronic fatigue and post-traumatic stress disorder

Administrative staff wear protective masks at Scarborough Grace Hospital in Toronto on March 26, 2003. Health-care workers were especially hard hit by the SARS virus, making up about 43 per cent of cases in Canada. THE CANADIAN PRESS FILE

SARS claimed 44 lives in Canada. Globally, it is estimated that 916 people died, 11 per cent of the people who were infected. A total of 438 Canadians — a mix of probable and suspected cases — likely had SARS. The official World Health Organization count lists only probable cases; its final tally suggests 8,422 people were infected with the disease.

After SARS was contained, some people dismissed the outbreak as overblown. But people like Low believe the world was lucky. SARS didn't transmit as well as viruses like measles or chickenpox. But there's no way to know whether it might have evolved to acquire greater spreading skills if it hadn't been driven out of people.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Origins of an outbreak

- By early February 2003, the WHO had received an anonymous email about a mystery disease that had already killed 100 people in Guangdong, China.
- Later that month, a Chinese doctor who had treated pneumonia patients travelled to Hong Kong, where he stayed at the Metropole Hotel. During his stay, Liu Jianlun, who later died, infected a dozen other guests.
- They took the virus into hospitals in Hong Kong and to Vietnam, Singapore, the United States, Ireland and Canada.
- Two Canadians were infected at the Metropole: A man who brought the virus to Vancouver and a woman who carried it in her lungs to Toronto. The Vancouver man was isolated and did not spark an outbreak.

A funny thing happens when you tell kids they matter. They believe you.

An alarming 40,000 kids drop out of high school every year. Boys and Girls Clubs of Canada are committed to changing that. They provide a safe and supportive place where kids can develop confidence and life skills. They offer programs like *Rogers Raising the Grade*™ to help kids with their studies. The Club is a place where kids can drop in, so they're less likely to drop out.

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The city's skyline is seen here full of cranes. Coun. Doug Ford credits Toronto's affordable residential taxes and the downtown condo boom for the population in Toronto surpassing Chicago's. RENE JOHNSTON/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Lively downtown helped T.O. grow, Doug Ford says

'Happening place.' Councillor credits city's affordable residential taxes as T.O. surpasses Chicago in population

Toronto's healthy population growth is partly due to something other cities don't have — a lively downtown, says Coun. Doug Ford.

"I was in Dallas recently, and you could shoot a cannon through the streets," said Ford, Mayor Rob Ford's brother. "No one was walking the streets. When I say no one, I'm talking no one, and it's a beautiful city."

Ford was heartened by a city staff report showing that more people are choosing to stay in Toronto rather than move to the 905 or other places in Ontario.

That trend helped Toronto's population hit 2,791,140, overtaking Chicago to become North America's fourth-largest city behind Mexico City, New York and Los Angeles.

The downtown residential boom makes Toronto different from U.S. cities, he said.

"A lot of people in the United States live in the suburbs and work downtown. Look around Dallas, how many residential condos do you see? Barely any."

Ford credited the city's affordable residential taxes — lower than 905 municipalities.

"Everyone's worried about the economy worldwide and they want a safe haven: The safe haven's Canada and Toronto in particular," he said. "People know it's a happening place. Let's cross our fingers and hope it continues."

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Quoted

"I'm not saying Rob gets 100 per cent of the credit, but I am saying we've created an environment to attract people from all over the world, not only to invest in our city but to live in our city."

Coun. Doug Ford

Fake bakes

Liberals to ban youth from using tanning beds

Ontario's governing Liberals are moving on their promise to ban people under the age of 18 from using tanning beds.

Word is out that Health Minister Deb Matthews will table legislation Thursday that would ban the sale of tanning services to youth.

Former premier Dalton McGuinty promised last September to introduce a ban to protect young people from skin cancer. The New Democrats pushed for the ban in the last legislative session, which McGuinty said he'd adopt with some changes. But it's unclear how closely the government will follow the NDP's bill.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Rogers Centre

Massive dance party coming

On June 1, what it means to party in Canada will take on a whole new meaning when Sensation — a huge dance event — arrives in Toronto for its Canadian debut. Bud Light presents Sensation is expected to light up the Rogers Centre for more than 30,000 fans.

The undersea-themed extravaganza is called The Ocean of White, "a wondrous world of nocturnal sea life where flames shoot from the ceiling," says Michael Hekking, commercial director of Sensation.

Tickets go on sale on Friday, March 8 through Ticketmaster at ticketmaster.ca.

METRO

Weather turning spring-like in time for weekend

Forecast. Weather Network predicting warmer-than-normal season ahead

Torontonians can sport their spring coats this weekend as temperatures climb to 10 C, according to Environment Canada.

Friday will be sunny with a daytime high of 5 C. The sunshine will continue well into the weekend, with a high of 7 C Saturday and 10 C Sunday.

Next week will be a little chillier, with a high of 3 C Monday and 2 C Tuesday, and a chance of flurries.

"You always get those false starts where you get a few nice days then it goes back," said Weather Network meteorologist Chris Scott.

The Weather Network released its spring outlook for March, April and May, and after a long, gruelling winter chock full of snowstorms it looks like Torontonians can expect warmer-than-average conditions.

However, Scott says this spring won't be as warm as last.

"It's going to be much more of a typical type of spring this year as opposed to what we saw last year," said Scott.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Those were the days ...

In March 2012, Torontonians experienced 12 days throughout the month where temperatures soared past 15 C.

Beetlemania sweeps Ryerson

Ryerson engineering students take turns pushing an old Volkswagen Beetle around campus for 24 hours nonstop on Wednesday to raise money for the Hospital For Sick Children. This is their 11th year and they typically raise about $2,000 with the "bug push." CHRIS SO/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Testimony. Elementary teacher accused of sexual assault on student

A Toronto teenager maintains, despite inconsistencies in his accounts, that he was sexually assaulted by a female Catholic elementary-school music teacher when he was nine.

Sylvia Zoleta told him they could be special friends and do "special things," and they had sexual encounters during eight detentions when he was kept in her classroom after school for being disruptive, he has testified.

Zoleta, 54, has pleaded not guilty to sexual assault, sexual interference and invitation to sexual touching in February and March 2005 at the Etobicoke school. She is now suspended with pay from the Toronto Catholic board.

The 18-year-old student, who cannot be identified, testified behind a screen blocking his view of Zoleta. He admitted leaving out some details in earlier statements.

One of the teen's high school teachers, who cannot be named, testified he disclosed the alleged elementary-school sex when he privately presented a research project on child abuse in January 2011.

"He was visibly upset," she told prosecutor Jennifer Strasberg. "His voice was extremely shaky." TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Canadian icon Stompin' Tom Connors is dead at the age of 77. DARREN CALABRESE/ THE CANADIAN PRESS

Stompin' Tom's last message

Canadian country-folk legend Stompin' Tom Connors, whose toe-tapping musical spirit and fierce patriotism established him as one of Canada's strongest cultural icons, has died. He was 77.

Connors passed away Wednesday from what a spokesperson described as "natural causes."

Brian Edwards said the musician, rarely seen without his signature black cowboy hat and stomping cowboy boots, knew his health was declining and had penned a message for his fans a few days before his death.

In the message posted on his website, Connors says Canada kept him "inspired with it's beauty, character, and spirit, driving me to keep marching on and devoted to sing about its people and places that make Canada the greatest country in the world."

Connors is survived by his wife Lena, two sons, two daughters and several grandchildren.

Dubbed Stompin' Tom for his propensity to pound the floor with his foot during performances, Connors garnered a devoted following with his country-folk tunes.

His heritage-soaked songs such as Canada Day, Up Canada Way and The Hockey Song have come to be regarded as national anthems. THE CANADIAN PRESS

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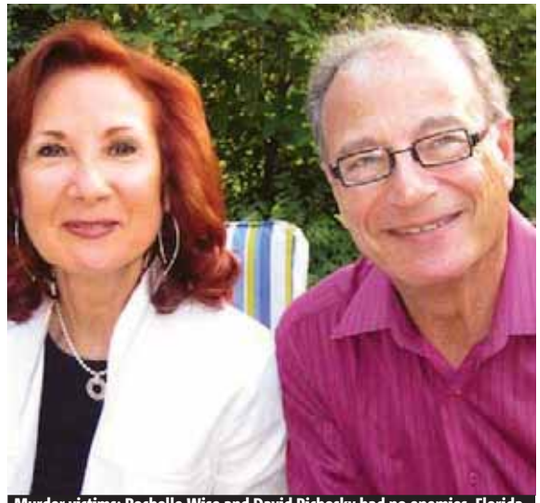

Murder victims: Rochelle Wise and David Pichosky had no enemies, Florida police say. COURTESY SUN SENTINEL

Why? Who would kill this 'nice' couple of Canadians?

'Senseless' deaths in Florida. Multiple suspects hunted in murder of pair who were enjoying their retirement together

More grim details emerged Wednesday about the "senseless" homicide of a "nice" Canadian couple in Florida that has left police mystified.

Rochelle Wise, 66, and David Pichosky, 71, were killed by asphyxiation in their winter home in Hallandale Beach, police say.

But why?

They had no enemies and likely didn't know their killers, police say.

Investigators believe they are looking for multiple suspects, but haven't been able to figure out any motive.

"As the details come out I believe the public will be shocked just to know how senseless this murder was," said police Chief Dwayne Flournoy.

"It angers me that someone came into this home and killed these two people who, (from) what we've been able to identify, (had) no enemies.

"They were nice people. They were enjoying their retirement. They were enjoying their new marriage."

Family and friends are appealing for information.

Crime Stoppers USA is offering a $51,000 reward — most of it coming from an anonymous donor.

Police have received fewer than 100 tips.

And though the force is dedicating all the resources it can to the case, they still need more information, said Flournoy — who appealed to people who may be involved but are "less culpable."

"We just need that one break," Flournoy added. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Two lives snuffed out

Rochelle Wise and David Pichosky were married only about four years ago, reports say. Details about their life have emerged from family, friends and police.

- **Their togetherness.** They were always together, going to shows, going out to eat, going to the temple and taking their family to the ice cream parlour when they visited Florida.
- **Their enduring love.** They were doting grandparents to their blended family and loved their life together.

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Facebook redesign appeals to advertisers

Facebook will be offering content-specific feeds and larger ads. GETTY IMAGES FILE

Still your friend? News feed will also include content-specific options

Facebook is expected to unveil a fresh design of its news feed on Thursday, with changes said to include multiple content-specific feeds and larger advertisements.

The news feed has not significantly changed since 2006, and the long-awaited update is expected to make the social-networking site more attractive to advertisers.

"It's a direct shot across the bow at Google," said IDC analyst Kevin Restivo. "Those two companies are mortal enemies and this just brings them into greater competition against each other. The battleground is the advertising field."

At a news conference, Facebook promised to introduce a "new look for news feed."

In its current form, the news feed is a chronological stream of updates from friends, celebrities and companies that users follow, with few options to organize the content.

Facebook has been tight-lipped about its plans, but technology news site TechCrunch reported the company will offer new ways to filter your news feed, allowing users to switch between different categories.

For example, one could click on a photos feed to see friends' Facebook and Instagram snapshots, or a redesigned music feed to see what they're listening to. A media feed, with the latest updates from news websites, could also be an option. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

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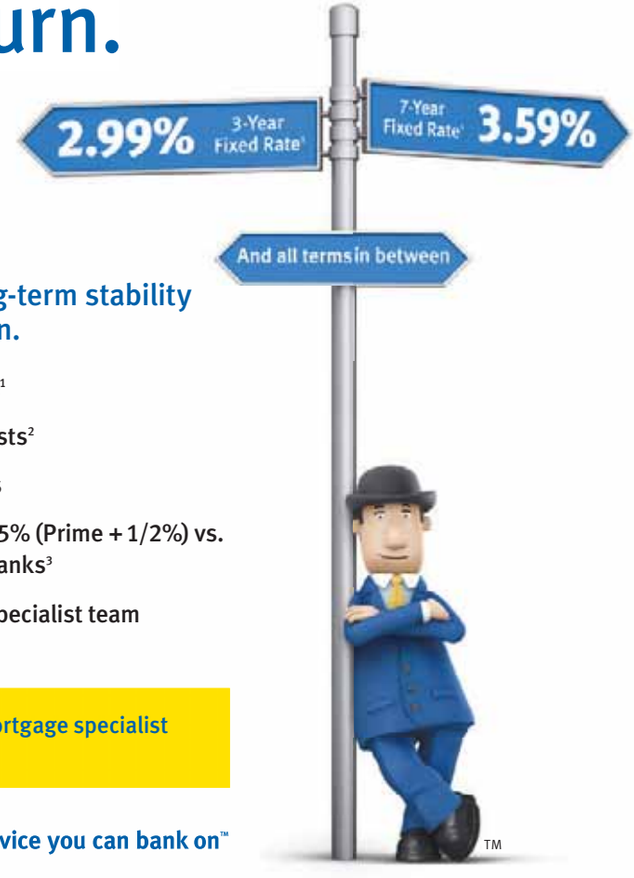

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Red Chamber. Senator facing heat for expense claims, relationship

Media reports say Sen. Pierre-Hugues Boisvenu is in a romantic relationship with his aide, Isabelle Lapointe. FACEBOOK

A Quebec senator is in the spotlight over reports he is in a romantic relationship with an employee on Parliament Hill.

Conservative Sen. Pierre-Hugues Boisvenu, 64, is the latest member of the Red Chamber to come under scrutiny as part of the ongoing controversy surrounding expense claims.

Montreal-based newspaper La Presse reported this weekend that Boisvenu claimed more than $20,000 in living expenses for his time spent in the Ottawa area, while claiming his primary residence is in Sherbrooke, Que.

Meanwhile, the newspaper reported Boisvenu is involved romantically with his aide, Isabelle Lapointe, a former criminal analyst whom he hired to be his executive assistant, also in charge of communications.

The relationship appears to go against rules governing the hiring of employees at the Senate of Canada, as far as they were explained to other media, but communications staff refused to state those rules when asked about them on Tuesday.

Neither Lapointe nor Boisvenu responded to interview requests on Tuesday.

Boisvenu told La Presse his personal life has nothing to do with anyone but him.

Boisvenu also explained the allowance by saying that it is his legal permanent address until his divorce is finalized.

A Senate standing committee appeared to conclude his expense claims were legitimate. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Quebec

Morgue worker fired for collecting pics of deceased

Quebec's coroner's office has confirmed the firing of an employee in the wake of a news report that a morgue worker collected pictures of dead women and children.

The chief coroner said Wednesday that the employee was dismissed last year, months after officials received a tip from a colleague and investigated.

Chief coroner Louise Nolet would not comment on a news report that the employee created a library of photos, gathered since 1995, and would look at them when his colleagues left the room. Quebec's TVA network said the employee worked at the Quebec City morgue. THE CANADIAN PRESS

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‘The fight goes on! Chavez lives!’

Venezuela. Tens of thousands line the streets of Caracas, mourning the death of their influential socialist leader

A supporter of Venezuela’s late president Hugo Chavez holds a picture of him above a crowd waiting for Chavez’s coffin to be taken from the hospital, where he died on Tuesday, to a military academy where it will remain until his funeral in Caracas.

RICARDO MAZALAN/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

A flag-draped coffin carrying the body of the late Venezuelan president Hugo Chavez floated over a sea of supporters on Wednesday on its way to a military academy where it will lie in state. Away from the procession route, jittery Venezuelans facing an uncertain future without their larger-than-life leader flocked to supermarkets and gas stations to stock up on supplies, preparing for the worst a day after Chavez succumbed to cancer.

Tens of thousands lined the streets or walked with the casket in the capital, many weeping as the body approached, led by a grim drum major. Other mourners pumped their fists and held aloft images of the late president, amid countless waving yellow, blue and red Venezuelan flags.

“The fight goes on! Chavez lives!” the mourners shouted in unison, many through eyes red from crying late into the night.

Chavez’s bereaved mother, Elena Frias de Chavez, leaned against her son’s casket, while a priest read a prayer before the procession left the military hospital where Chavez died at the age of 58. Vice-President Nicolas Maduro, Chavez’s anointed successor, walked with the crowd, along with Cabinet members and uniformed soldiers.

“I feel so much pain. So much pain,” said Yamile Gil, a 38-year-old housewife. “We never wanted to see our president like this. We will always love him.”

The former paratrooper will remain at the military academy until his Friday funeral, which promises to draw leaders from all over the world. Already, the presidents of Argentina, Uruguay and Bolivia have arrived to mourn a man whose death leaves an enormous void in the region’s anti-American left.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Chavez’s legacy

World leaders react

Supporters of Venezuela’s late president Hugo Chavez embrace as the coffin containing his body passes in the street.

RODRIGO ABD/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Some cried, some cheered. Many Latin Americans mourned the death of Venezuelan president Hugo Chavez, leaders in Europe and Asia sent condolences and Iran’s president predicted great works in the afterlife.

U.S. President Barack Obama, meanwhile, focused on “a new chapter” for Venezuela, following 14 years in which Chavez cast himself as a bulwark against U.S. domination.

Chavez was seen as a hero by some for his socialist programs, his anti-U.S. rhetoric and gifts of cut-rate oil. Others considered him a bully who repressed his opponents.

A teary-eyed Bolivian President Evo Morales, one of Chavez’s closest allies and most loyal disciples, declared that “Chavez is more alive than ever.” Officials in Cuba, Iran and Russia had effusive praise for the late leader.

President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad of Iran announced a day of mourning and compared Chavez to a saint, saying he will “return on resurrection day.”

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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272 Danforth Ave.
471 Eglinton Ave. W
662 King St. W, Unit 2
939 Eglinton Ave. E, Unit 106
154 University Ave., Unit 101
2200 Yonge St., Unit 104
2397 Yonge St.
9A Yorkville Ave.
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525 University Ave.
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10 Clock Tower Rd., Unit B1A
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280 Spadina Ave.
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1000 Gerrard St. E, Unit K2
618 Sheppard Ave. W
6758 Kingston Rd., Unit 12
730 Danforth Ave.
333 Bloor St. E
2120 Queen St. E
8 Wellesley St. E
1965-1971 Yonge St., Unit A
120 Front St. E
660 Eglinton Ave., Unit 104
3151 Yonge St.
808 York Mills Rd., Unit 1S-17
2400 Eglinton Ave. W
2900 Warden Ave.
130 King St. W., Unit CW15
3401 Dufferin St., Unit 108
1 Yorkdale Rd., Unit 180
1 Dundas St. W, Unit Z010
220 Yonge St., Unit H014
112-10 Dundas St. E
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F-35s. Jet's blind spot could cause pilot deaths, Pentagon report shows

The F-35 jet, eyed as Canada's fighter of the future, may have a fatal flaw — a blind spot that prevents pilots from "checking their six" or easily watching for an enemy behind them, a new report says.

Experienced fighter pilots who have flown the high-tech aircraft say the design shortfall could cost future F-35 pilots their lives.

"Aft visibility will get the pilot gunned every time," wrote one American pilot, who flew the fighter last fall at Florida's Eglin Air Force Base.

"The head rest is too large and will impede aft visibility and survivability during surface and air engagements," wrote another.

Their comments are contained in a recent assessment prepared by the U.S. Defense Department of the F-35A and the system to train new pilots how to fly it.

The Feb. 15 report, prepared by Michael Gilmore, director of operational test and evaluation, paints a sobering picture of an aircraft that remains far from being combat-ready. Pilots who flew the aircraft last fall faced a litany of "significant" restrictions that barred them from flying at night, in bad weather, in formation with other aircraft, doing aerobatics or testing the jet's combat capabilities.

"As a result of the immaturity of the F-35A, student pilots were limited in flight maneuvering to very basic aircraft handling," the report says.

"The aircraft is still very immature; utility of available training is limited."

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Canadian pilot

Despite the report's concerns, one Canadian remains bullish on the jet's abilities. Billy Flynn, a former CF-18 pilot and squadron commander, is now an F-35 test pilot and says the jet is better than anything he's flown.

Alcohol one of the top health threats to Canadians: Report

The report notes seven of 10 provinces meet only 50 per cent of their full potential on advertising policy, and suggests a simple solution: Shift the "focus of provincial liquor board websites away from product promotion" and towards a "health-focused" message. RICHARD LAUTENS/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Drinking costs. CAMH research estimates booze translates to $14.6-billion burden on health-care and law-enforcement services

It's a sobering nationwide report with a stark conclusion: Alcohol is one of the greatest public-health threats in Canada. And the provinces are not doing enough to curb its deadly potential.

The report, Strategies to Reduce Alcohol-Related Harms and Costs in Canada: A Comparison of Provincial Policies, was published Wednesday by the Centre for Addiction and Mental Health.

Lead author Norman Giesbrecht, a senior scientist at CAMH, said it is mind-boggling how lax harm-reduction policies are across the country.

Giesbrecht's report, which notes 80 per cent of Canadians drink, ranks provinces on 10 key harm-reduction policies, including pricing, availability, marketing, legal drinking age and warning labels.

Ontario came first, Quebec ranked last, and Giesbrecht was disappointed with each province's score — Ontario's first-place ranking only reached 56 per cent of a perfect score.

"There's lots of room for improvement," he said. "Alcohol does not get a lot of attention in regards to prevention."

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

A growing problem

Giesbrecht says the lack of attention to the problem of alcohol runs contrary to statistics: Alcohol accounted for eight per cent of all deaths (under 70 years old) and seven per cent of all hospital stays in 2002, and between 1996 and 2010, total consumption increased by 13 per cent.

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Syrian rebels seize UN peacekeepers

Golan Heights. United Nations troops accused of aiding Assad regime

Israel on edge

Israeli officials have grown increasingly jittery as the Syrian war moves closer to Israel. There have been several instances in which stray fire has landed in the Israeli-controlled Golan Heights, and Israel is concerned that Syrian weapons could fall into the hands of hostile groups.

Armed fighters linked to the Syrian opposition detained 21 UN peacekeepers Wednesday in the increasingly volatile zone separating Israeli and Syrian troops on the Golan Heights, a new escalation in the spillover of Syria's civil war.

The UN Security Council demanded their immediate and unconditional release.

The capture comes a week after the announcement that a member of the peacekeeping force, known as UNDOF, is missing.

Russia's UN Ambassador Vitaly Churkin, the current Security Council president, said talks are underway between UN officials from the peacekeeping force and the captors.

UN peacekeeping chief Herve Ladsous, who briefed the council behind closed doors, identified the captors as being from a group associated with the Syrian armed opposition, Churkin said.

"There was no fighting, according to his briefing to us," Churkin said. "My understanding is that they took over the trucks in which the UNDOF personnel was moving around."

UN deputy spokesman Eduardo del Buey said the UN observers were on a regular supply mission when they were stopped by about 30 armed fighters near an observation post that was damaged in heavy combat last weekend and had been evacuated.

A video posted online by activists showed a group of armed rebels standing around at least three white UN vehicles with the words UNDOF on them, allegedly in the village of Jamlah.

The video, circulated by the Syrian Observatory for Human Rights, said the peacekeepers being held by the rebels are Filipinos.

It accuses the peacekeepers of assisting the Syrian regime to redeploy in an area near the Golan that the fighters had seized a few days ago.

A man identified as Abu Qaed al-Faleh, spokesman for the Martyrs of Yarmouk Brigades, announced the group is holding the peacekeepers until Syrian President Bashar Assad's forces withdraw from Jamlah.

Churkin said the capture of the peacekeepers "is particularly unacceptable and bizarre (because) UNDOF are unarmed and they have nothing to do with the situation in Syria."

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Cardinal in the thick of it

Canadian Cardinal Marc Ouellet holds on to his umbrella on a rainy, windy day as he walks in St. Peter's Square after attending a cardinals' meeting at the Vatican on Wednesday. Cardinals are meeting to discuss problems within the church and get to know one another. There has been speculation that Ouellet could be elected the next pope, but so far there is no clear front-runner for the pontificate.

ANDREW MEDICHINI/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Detention system

UN claims Israeli mistreatment of Palestinian youth

Israel must reform its system of military detention for Palestinian minors, a UN report said Wednesday, saying an in-depth study showed it systematically and gravely violated their rights.

The United Nations Children's Fund report was based on interviews with 400 children and minors arrested, detained and jailed in Israel's military court system as well as meetings with lawyers and Israeli officials.

"Ill treatment of Palestinian children in the Israeli military detention system appears to be widespread, systematic and institutionalized," said the report, issued by UN officials in Jerusalem. They urged Israel not to blindfold minors or hold them in solitary confinement, and to allow a lawyer or family member to be present during interrogations.

The Foreign Ministry said Israel would co-operate with the UN, and the military was already making changes. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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- ***Prevent iron deficiency.***
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Police crash student protest in Montreal

Tuition hike. Biggest change from last year's marches was that students chanted against a different premier

People who thought they'd seen the last of the nighttime protests in Montreal streets against tuition-fee increases heard the familiar drone of police helicopters over the city core Tuesday night as the nocturnal gnashing of teeth by students over the cost of their education was renewed, boiling over into a battle with police.

Montreal's first nighttime tuition-fee protest in several months was almost a mirror image of the demonstrations that filled the city's streets last year. The biggest change was that protesters were chanting against Premier Pauline Marois instead of Jean Charest, who also tried to jack up tuition when he was premier.

And like some of last year's marches, Tuesday night's protest ended with the crash of breaking plate glass splitting the night, the scream of police sirens and the clatter of batons against riot shields as police charged the thousands of demonstrators. It was the second repudiation in a week of Marois' declaration that student unrest had been put to rest.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Social peace?

Social peace was one of the Parti Quebecois premier's campaign platforms in last year's provincial election. She declared mission accomplished at the end of a summit on education last week.

Protesters opposing Quebec tuition-fee increases demonstrate in Montreal on Tuesday. THE CANADIAN PRESS

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This image provided by NASA shows an image captured by NASA's Solar Dynamics Observatory of a blast of plasma streaming from the sun in August 2012. Scientists say a solar eruption was detected on Tuesday and was headed toward Mars. NASA's Curiosity rover will postpone some activities but other Mars missions will operate normally. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS/NASA

Curiosity sleeps as solar blast barrels toward Mars

NASA says the Curiosity rover is powering down after the sun unleashed a blast headed for Mars.

Project managers said Wednesday they powered down the car-size rover as a precaution, since it suffered a recent computer problem.

The Opportunity rover and two orbiting NASA spacecraft will carry on with normal activities.

On Tuesday, scientists noticed a flare erupting from the sun.

The burst sent a stream of radiation and a cloud of superheated gas toward Mars.

The solar eruption was not expected to have an impact on Earth.

Curiosity is recovering from a memory problem last week. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Sleep mode

Engineers were troubleshooting the cause when they decided to put the rover in sleep mode. This means that it will take even longer for Curiosity to return to its science experiments.

Storm slams mid-Atlantic, D.C. spared

Varying impact across region. Washington shuts down with up to 10 inches of snow forecasted, but receives far less

After pummeling the midsection of the U.S. with heavy snow, a late-winter storm made its way Wednesday toward the Mid-Atlantic region, dumping nearly two feet of snow in some places and knocking out power to about 250,000 homes and businesses, but largely sparing the nation's capital.

Residents of Washington, D.C., had braced for the possibility of snarled traffic and power outages, and as the storm closed in, the federal government said its offices in the area would be closed Wednesday.

The storm had brought around 10 inches of snow to weather-hardened Chicago by late Tuesday, when snow was also starting to come down in parts of Virginia. Schools were closed in Minnesota, Wisconsin and Illinois, and more than 1,100 flights were cancelled at Chicago's two major airports, prompting delays and closures at others. METRO/WITH FILES FROM THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Taking precautions

Airlines along the storm's projected path cut flights, including hundreds more Wednesday, most of them at Dulles and Reagan National airports in the Washington area, according to FlightAware.com.

A man braces against a small tree and a woman leans against the wind as it whips between buildings Wednesday, in Trenton, N.J. Winds from a winter storm lashed New Jersey and did some damage. MEL EVANS/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Puerto Rico

Woman appeals gay-adoption ruling

A lesbian whose adoption request was recently denied by Puerto Rico's Supreme Court is appealing the ruling.

The woman's partner gave birth to a girl, now 12, through in-vitro fertilization. Attorney Nora Vargas represents the woman and said Wednesday that it is in the child's best interest for the woman to adopt the girl as the second parent.

The announcement of the appeal comes two weeks after the high court voted 5-4 to uphold a law banning gay couples from adopting children.

It was the first time the court heard a case on same-sex adoptions.

Legislators in the U.S. territory are considering several proposals to extend more rights to gays and lesbians. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Mexico

U.S. tourist killed by tidal wave

Officials said a giant wave struck a pair of U.S. tourists strolling on the beach near the famous stone arch in the Mexican resort of Cabo San Lucas, killing a 65-year-old woman and leaving a 70-year-old man in serious condition.

State police said the two were walking back to their hotel when they were hit by the wave and dragged out to sea on Tuesday. They were pulled out by navy personnel. The woman was declared dead and the man was in serious condition Wednesday.

Authorities said the woman had a Wisconsin driver's licence and the man had one from Nebraska, but it was unclear where they were currently living or whether next of kin had been notified. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Pop star Carly Rae Jepsen, of Mission, B.C. JOEL RYAN/INVISION/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Scouts Canada to Jepsen: We share your pro-gay stance

Book her maybe.
Singer cancelled Boy Scouts of America gig over group's LGBT policy

In the wake of Carly Rae Jepsen's cancellation of her Boy Scouts of America (BSA) performance due to the group's exclusion of gay people, Scouts Canada is reaffirming its stance on inclusiveness — and says Jepsen is welcome at their jamboree.

The Canadian pop star said on Twitter that "as an artist who believes in equality for all people" she was pulling out of the BSA's jamboree in July. Rock band Train also warned that it won't appear unless the organization stops barring participation by gay scouts or adult leaders.

BSA director of publicity Deron Smith said the organization appreciates "everyone's right to express an opinion."

In May, the Boy Scouts of America's 1,400-member National Council is expected to consider a proposal to allow sponsors of local Scout units to decide for themselves whether to admit gay people.

Meanwhile, Scouts Canada — fully separate from the BSA — clearly stipulates it "does not discriminate for reasons of gender, culture, religious belief or sexual orientation."

In 2001, the organization's social-justice and diversity policy reaffirmed its stance, noted Kaylee Galipeau, national youth commissioner and chair of the national youth network for Scouts Canada.

"It's really just been an opportunity for us to remind people that ... we're vibrant in Canada, we're growing and we are open to everyone," she said from Valhalla Centre, Alta.

Scouts Canada is preparing to host its jamboree from July 6 to 13 in Sylvan Lake, Alta. Galipeau extended an invitation to both Train and Jepsen to attend. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Scouts Canada

"We accept boys and girls, we accept LGBT members, we accept people of all faiths."

Kaylee Galipeau, national youth commissioner and chair of the national youth network for Scouts Canada.

Mobile users beware: Web pages now hog 720 KB

Devouring data. HTTP Archive warns the size of an average page has grown 35% in past year

Think viewing a few websites on a smartphone doesn't use much data? Think again.

The average size of a web page continues to grow unabated, a trend that mobile users in particular should take note of.

According to the website HTTP Archive, which regularly studies the top 10,000 most-visited sites online, the average web page now weighs in at about 1.3 megabytes, up about 35 per cent in the last year.

It's not a big data hit when accessing the web at home but it's a different story for users with limited data allowances for their mobile phones.

HTTP Archive suggests the average web page when browsing on a mobile device — accounting for the fact that some websites have mobile-optimized pages and others don't — is about 720 kilobytes.

"That is quite large, that size has really grown a fair bit," says Guy Podjarny, an Ottawa-based web-performance researcher who works for the company Akamai. "Anything that is over the 700 kilobytes or 800 kilobytes range I would mark as too heavy for mobile."

Given that many mobile providers sell plans that start at 150 megabytes a month, basic web browsing — nevermind streaming of audio or video, which quickly gobbles through data — could quickly deplete that allotment.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

A cleanup worker uses a shovel to remove thick oil that washed ashore from the Deepwater Horizon oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico on July 1, 2010, in Gulfport, Miss. GETTY IMAGES FILE

BP trial. Ex-supervisor says he didn't feel pressured to sacrifice safety before spill

A retired BP employee who supervised drilling operations on the rig that exploded in the Gulf of Mexico testified Wednesday that he never felt pressure to sacrifice safety to save money, even though the project was behind schedule and over budget.

"I don't believe in pushing people to keep schedules. I'm just not going to do it, especially if safety is involved," former BP well site leader Ronnie Sepulvado said at a federal trial designed to assign fault for the deadly disaster to the companies involved in drilling BP PLC's Macondo well.

Sepulvado wasn't on the Deepwater Horizon rig at the time of the April 20, 2010, well blowout. He left four days earlier because his well-control certificate was about to expire.

His replacement, Robert Kaluza, and fellow BP well-site leader Donald Vidrine are charged with manslaughter in the deaths of 11 rig workers and await a separate trial.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Kids's programming

Amazon orders pilot for math-focused mystery

Amazon is continuing its push into producing original children's series, ordering its sixth pilot of shows aimed at kids.

The online retailer announced that it will make a test pilot for Sara Solves It, an animated math-focused mystery developed by WGBH and Out of the Blue Enterprises. The show is the sixth pilot geared for kids by Amazon Studios, the retailer's original movie and series production arm.

Launched in 2010, Amazon Studios is moving toward presenting its pilots on its Prime Instant Video service. Amazon says it will choose which series to greenlight for a full season based on viewer reaction.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Annual reports

Want to know how Swatch did? Better know some Swiss German

How to show your attachment to your small Alpine country when you're a globally known watch manufacturer? Try writing your annual financial report in the local dialect impenetrable to outsiders.

Swatch Group AG issued its 216-page report for 2012 in Swiss German — an idiosyncratic form of the language that often baffles other native German speakers.

Chairwoman Nayla Hayek said the language switch was meant as "a positive provocation" and she was confident the Swiss "will respond to this expression of our deep connection to our roots with a wink."

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Goodbye, swirly B: Bay gets rebranded

Modern makeover. Retailer will now be called Hudson's Bay and use updated logo

The Bay is going back to its roots under a plan to rebrand its operations with a different name and new logo. The department store retailer says it will now be called Hudson's Bay, a nod to its parent company.

A refreshed logo uses the company's name in a simple type face. The full version resurrects its corporate coat of arms, which features a shield and cross, as well as beavers, a fox and two elk.

A spokeswoman for the company says the rest of the rebranding effort will roll out over time. The new logo already has been incorporated into the company's loyalty program, which will now be called Hudson's Bay Rewards.

The retailer called the reworking of its brand "a marriage between yesterday's history and tomorrow's vision."

Plans are to gradually take down The Bay signs at its retail locations, though it doesn't have a timeline for the changes. The parent company will maintain its logo of a flag with the letters "HBC" — for Hudson's Bay Company. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Time for a change

1965

The department-store retailer says this is its first major logo revamp since 1965.

Top, the groovy, decades-old Bay logo recognizable to all Canadians is being replaced by the more modern and streamlined version shown underneath. The retailer will now be known as Hudson's Bay instead of the Bay. HBC

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Policy intentions. BoC signals low interest rates will be around for a while

The Bank of Canada is hinting it is less concerned about household debt levels, making it possible to keep attractive interest rates in place longer to spur investment and economic growth.

As expected, the central bank kept its overnight policy rate at one per cent on Wednesday, the level that has been in place for about two and a half years to ease Canada's recovery from the 2008-2009 global financial meltdown.

But the bank also signalled a mild change in its thinking by softening its closely followed forward-looking guidance on rate hikes, suggesting it now expects the current rate to remain in place longer than it had previously expected.

The bank's governing council cited continued slack in the economy and the extremely low inflation rate as reasons for keeping the interest rate where it is, and the healthier outlook for household finances and debt as alleviating some of the pressure to raise rates. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Quoted

"I think the bank made it just a little more explicit that they see rates going nowhere any time soon. I think this pretty well locks in the view that there won't be any rate hikes in 2013."

Doug Porter, chief economist with BMO Capital Markets

Market Minute

DOLLAR 96.95¢ (-0.33¢)

TSX 12,831.96 (+95.93)

OIL $90.43 US (-39¢)

GOLD $1,574.90 US (unchanged)

Natural gas: $3.48 (-5¢)
Dow Jones: 14,296.24 (+42.47)

Landmark penalty

EU fines Microsoft for breaking pledge

The EU has fined Microsoft about $750 million for breaking a pledge to offer personal-computer users a choice of Internet browsers when they install the company's flagship Windows operating system. The penalty imposed by the EU's executive arm, the Commission, is a first for Brussels: no company has ever failed to keep its end of a bargain with EU authorities before. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

World markets

Dow's record high boosts confidence

The Dow's new all-time high and better economic data from the U.S. propelled world markets Wednesday, with European stocks hitting a four-year high. Investors are cheered by major central banks' commitments to keep supporting growth in the world's biggest economies. That's helped them look past political trouble in Washington, where budget cuts took effect last week. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

WHOOPS! I'M ONLY SORT OF SORRY

HE SAYS

John Mazerolle
metronews.ca

I'm sorry I've never said sorry.

"Sorry" has always seemed to be the hardest word, but in 2013 I've seen the error in my thinking. Between bracelet aficionado Lance Armstrong, football coach Rob Ford and anti-shirt activist Justin Bieber, I see now that sorry is the quickest, easiest path to redemption.

Whether you say sorry on Twitter, to Oprah or at a staged media event, you can take your dirty laundry and stuff it in the hamper of history, even if it never actually comes clean.

You'll notice I never said that these men apologized. I only noted that they said the word "sorry." There's a difference.

As I understand it, perhaps naively, an apology involves admitting you were wrong, offering no excuses, and owning your mistake.

Cyclist Armstrong appeared with Oprah and said sorry for using performance-enhancing drugs but also said he never considered it cheating. Oprah, a.k.a. Pope No. 3, still offered absolution and said Armstrong could be "a hero again."

Toronto Mayor Rob Ford, when it looked like he might lose his job, said he was sorry "to everyone who believes I should have done this differently." That's sincere in its half-heartedness, at least, though it's hard to fit on a Hallmark card.

And singer Bieber had to apologize for taking the stage at a London concert at 10:30 p.m., which is past his fan base's bedtime. It's a minor transgression, to be sure, but the fact he tweeted that "there is no excuse for that" while blaming "technical issues" in the same bird-breath has me assuming he's begun the inevitable downward spiral of a teenage pop star and in eight years will look just like Keith Richards.

Seeing that I can say sorry for my misdeeds without the pain of any emotional heavy-lifting has inspired me to step up. I'm going to follow the example set by these three wise men, and soon I'll be sorry too.

Here goes.

I'd like to say sorry to my mother for stealing her Chatelaines and Redbooks when I was 11 years old so that I might peruse them for lingerie ads and illustrated guides to breastfeeding. I'd also like to say sorry to the teenage boys who found my magazine stash in the woods and, after an initial flush of excitement, loomed gravely over the pages, looking sad and whispering aloud, "Why would anyone DO this?"

With your permission, ladies and gents, I'd like to be a hero again.

Furthermore, I'd like to say sorry for the times that I have dropped a half-full cup of coffee into a mall garbage can because I'd been too lazy to find a sink. I apologize sincerely to anyone who thinks I possibly could have done this differently, though I frankly don't see how.

I also apologize for when I do it in the future.

Finally, I'm sorry that I have coveted my neighbour's ox. Like, a lot. There's no excuse for that, but I've had some technical difficulties.

Phew! Wow, that really works. I feel better!

Maybe you need to say sorry too? Perhaps you have a hard time apologizing?

Well, I challenge you to step forward and see how it feels to sort of, kind of, in a way apologize. After all, you're better safe than sorry.

No, wait.

ZOOM

Look, ma: I'm upside down

Canopy reflects wharf's heritage

The crowds appear to walk upside down but on closer inspection this surreal sight is of a giant mirrored canopy.

Recently unveiled in Marseille, France, the Vieux Port pavilion —constructed by architectural firm Foster + Partners — is made of a highly polished stainless-steel covering designed to reflect the city's UNESCO World Heritage–listed harbour.

"At last in Marseille, when you are with your children, you can take in the city's hustle and bustle — without the shopping," Gaëlle, a Marseillaise who came with her two daughters, told the newspaper Le Monde.

The cost of the project, which took one year to construct, amounted to $60.3 million, sources say.

METRO WORLD NEWS

Mirror image

"It's quite literally a reflection of its surroundings — its lightweight steel structure is a minimal intervention and appears as a simple silver line on the horizon."

Spencer de Grey, head of design, Foster + Partners

See for yourself

"Our approach has been to work with the climate, to create shade, but at the same time to respect the space of the harbour — just making it better."

Lord Norman Foster, British architect and head of architectural firm Foster + Partners

Clickbait

Reddit is the reigning champ of the Internet's thriving time-sink industry, providing daily bumper crops of cat pics and Good Guy Greg memes. This week, there's the irresistible Absurd Business Insider Headline Hall of Fame.

1. Nudity, Drunken Stupidity And A Jerk-Of-A 'Friend' May Cost A Startup Founder His Acquisition
2. A Guy With A Pirate Fetish is Selling His Insane Caribbean Mansion For $35M
3. You Are Directly Related To This Rat
4. Horses Cure Internet Porn Addiction In South Korea
5. Science Explains Why It Hurts So Much To Get Hit In The Balls

Letters

RE: Thanks for the Mammaries, published March 5

I think it's really important that the issues raised by Jessica Napier be widely read and I can't think of a better place than a free, widely available and distributed community newspaper like Metro. I hope Jessica's frank and direct writing allows others to see how insane and damaging it is to focus so much attention on mere body parts.

Jesse Kelly, London, Ont.

Twitter

@metropicks asked: What makes a "real hipster"?

@theunshakable1: Hipster: someone who spends more money on one outfit than I do on my entire wardrobe just to appear homeless without a care.

Follow @metropicks and take part in our daily poll.

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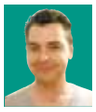
SCENE

Trekkies, get ready to meet the crew at T.O.'s ComiCon

Star Trek. Jonathan Frakes, better known as Commander William Riker, talks to Metro about a lifetime cult of fandom



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Actors know what they're in for when they sign up for a sci-fi series. Even a moderately successful show can spawn a lifetime of cult of fandom.

And if a show is very successful, cast members can find themselves making appearances together years after they're off the air — whether they like it or not. "I don't think we had any idea that the show would become the cultural icon that it's become," says Jonathan Frakes, best known for playing Commander William Riker on Star Trek: The Next Generation (TNG).

That show's core cast will appear together at this weekend's Toronto ComiCon. Luckily for them, friendship — not duty — is what keeps bringing them back together. "The cast is like a family," he says.

That's a rare occurrence. Frakes, who now directs primetime shows like Castle and NCIS: Los Angeles, says that by the end of most workdays, people are usually done with each other. Not so with the TNG cast. "We used to work together all week and then go out on the weekends. We were insane."

The insanity spilled over to the set during the show's seven-season run.

Frakes experienced the chaos first hand when he got his first directing gig on the show. "Patrick (Stewart, who played Captain Picard) set a very high bar and that allowed us to be playful between takes."

Such camaraderie makes public gatherings feel like a comedic roast. "You generally see Patrick going after Michael Dorn. That's a pretty standard opening. Levar (Burton) calls it catching lightning in a bottle," he says. "Somebody smiled on us."

The cast of Star Trek: The Next Generation. CONTRIBUTED

ComiCon

Toronto ComiCon takes place Saturday and Sunday at the Metro Toronto Convention Centre.

- Frakes has attended his share of comic conventions over the years. One of his earliest "acting" gigs had him dressed up as Captain America, promoting the character for Marvel at comic conventions in the 1970s.
- These days, it's the fans who are more likely to be in costume. Not that Frakes minds. "If it wasn't for the fans, we wouldn't be talking now."

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Untogether. Blue Hawaii gets cool with brooding full-length album

Blue Hawaii's debut EP Blooming Summer, released three years ago, was frozen in a state of sun-kissed bliss, reflecting both a recent trip to Central American paradise undertaken by Montreal duo Alex Cowan and Raphaelle Standell-Preston, as well as the amorous afterglow that coloured their relationship afterward.

Their brooding debut full-length, Untogether, is an entirely different experience, belonging squarely to the bleakness of a cold Montreal winter.

Where their 2010 introduction was a snapshot of a couple still with tropical sand between their toes, the ethereal Untogether is about separation; from each other (necessitated by Standell-Preston's touring duties with Braids) and from the fertile, close-knit Montreal scene that has both emboldened and challenged the duo.

"It's a big departure," Cowan agrees over the line from Montreal. "We were feeling very broken about our cultural scene and towards each other and towards a lot of things. It got dark and sad quite quickly."

It got noticed just as swiftly.

Where Blooming Summer was released quietly to positive, if scarce, critical notice, the electronic duo has cultivated a much higher profile in advance of the release of Untogether this week, with validating praise flowing in from such influential sources as Pitchfork and Fader. For Cowan and Standell-Preston (known as Agor and Raph, respectively), these critical plaudits arrive after more than a half-year of sitting on the completed album.

Assembling the record wasn't exactly easy, either. It was a draining six-month process during which Cowan and Standell-Preston hardly ever worked together directly. Though they were living in the same house, neither was home much. So routinely, one half of the duo would spend a night burrowing into a Blue Hawaii tune and then the other would examine and build on that work later, alone. The solitary nature of that process resulted in an album about distance and alienation, with uncommon musical and lyrical symmetry.

Blue Hawaii. HANDOUT

A darker love story

"It's still a love project, but it's definitely gotten more mental"

Alex Cowan on how Blue Hawaii's work has changed over the years

Of course, Blue Hawaii has already changed quite a bit in the years since their debut. Back then, they occasionally referred to the airy album as a "love project."

Cowan says the term still applies, in a way. "(This) is definitely not as rose-coloured, that's for sure," he said. "I'd say it's moved — it's still a love project, but it's definitely gotten more mental."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Spinning a web to catch a few dragons

Big break.
Hit-making producer stumbled across Imagine Dragons while searching for sounds for the Spider-Man Broadway musical

Imagine Dragons' album Night Visions, which debuted last September, has hit gold status. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

When he first started working with Imagine Dragons, music producer Alex da Kid was looking for some inspiration for the Broadway musical, Spider-Man: Turn Off the Dark.

"I thought they would be great to help me come up with ideas for U2," the Grammy-nominated English producer said.

There was just one problem: The demos they recorded were too good.

So instead of using the alternative band to collaborate on the score by Bono and The Edge, Alex da Kid — the creator of Eminem and Rihanna's colossal hit Love the Way You Lie — immediately signed the Las Vegas-based foursome to his label imprint KIDinaKORNER Records, distributed through Interscope Records.

Imagine Dragons released its debut album, Night Visions, in September and so far has reached gold status, selling more than 600,000 units, according to Nielsen SoundScan. The band currently has two songs in the Top 25 with It's Time and Radioactive and they are on a sold-out U.S. tour that wraps June 3 in Phoenix.

Imagine Dragons had been building a buzz on the music scene as an independent act before Alex da Kid got hold of them. They released four EPs and toured America. Lead singer Dan Reynolds said the group was "dead set" on being an independent act.

"We had offers from those labels all throughout the years and we turned them down," he said.

"It was so important that we built that organic, independent fan base."

Three of the band members met while "playing jazz together a lot" at the Berklee College of Music.

"I just didn't think I'd ever play with them again to be honest. I hoped that I would someday," said guitarist Wayne Sermon (bassist Ben McKee and drummer Dan Platzman round out the group). "I called (Reynolds) and he had eight credits left before he could graduate and get his degree, but apparently he didn't care much about that, so he just actually left and dropped everything and came to Vegas."

Identity crisis

"We didn't feel like we were ready as a band. We didn't understand our sound enough."

Imagine Dragons frontman Dan Reynolds on producer Alex da Kid helping his band

Meeting Alex da Kid, born Alexander Grant, changed his perception about staying independent. He says the producer filled a void in the band's sound.

"We didn't feel like we were ready as a band. We didn't understand our sound enough and our theme and who we are, and we didn't want to try to tell people that story (if) we didn't understand ourselves," Reynolds said. "(Alex) was the perfect match for what we had been trying to do for three years."

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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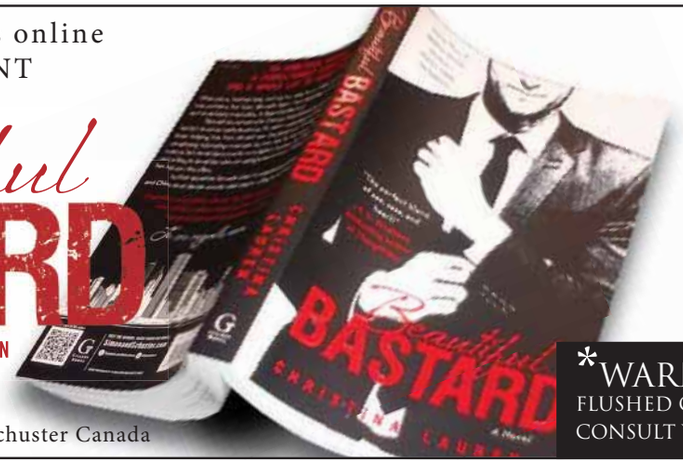
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Finding the beauty in death

Patti Smith: Camera Solo. Icon's AGO exhibit pays tribute to her lost loved ones and artistic muses

Patti Smith has grown used to a certain reaction to her photography exhibit, a collection of haunting, monochromatic images relating to late loved ones or long-dead creative muses, including Polaroid snapshots of Walt Whitman's tomb, Virginia Woolf's bed or a delicate teacup that belonged to Smith's father.

"To me, these photographs illustrate the fact that I am privileged to go around the world visiting the resting places of people I admire and being in close proximity with part of them," Smith told The Canadian Press.

The 66-year-old punk pioneer sees the work as a crucial tool for remembering the many people close to her who were buried before their time.

Patti Smith: Camera Solo — running at Toronto's Art Gallery of Ontario through May 19 — features more than 75 works of photography, film and objects from the musician's personal collection.

The intimate photographs (shot on Smith's vintage Polaroid Land 250 camera and then issued on gelatin silver prints) include a few self-portraits but largely depict those around her, including her children, friends and creative idols.

One section centres on her relationship to controversial American photographer Robert Mapplethorpe, who died in 1989.

Smith doesn't view the collection as a mournful or steeped in sorrow.

When people don't get your art

"People say, 'Well, you do so many graves — are you morbid?'"

Patti Smith, on misconceptions of her work

"I lost a lot of people — my brother, my husband, my mother and father, Robert (Mapplethorpe), my pianist (Richard Sohl) and except for my parents, all of these people were under 44 years old," she said.

"If you loved a person," she continues, "don't discard them because they're dead. They'll walk with you."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

"I have a strong relationship with the dead, even a happy one. I get pleasure out of having their things and sometimes photographing them." — Patti Smith

GALIT RODAN/THE CANADIAN PRESS

He's no James Franco, but he'll do

Metro Toronto's newsroom was visited by Oz and flying monkey Finley, pictured with good witch — and office manager — Navita Persaud, on Wednesday. The visit came ahead of the opening of the movie, Oz the Great and Powerful. DAVID VAN DYKE/METRO

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Rick Roberts and Sook-Yin Lee play Jack Layton and Olivia Chow in the CBC-TV movie about the late NDP leader's life that traces his career from Toronto municipal politics to his eventual leadership of Canada's official Opposition party. HANDOUT

They know Jack — actors grilled Chow on late husband

Piecing together a life. Stars of CBC-TV movie relied on details from his wife to colour their performances

Olivia Chow says she was determined to ensure that the upcoming CBC-TV movie about late New Democratic Party leader Jack Layton offered a complete picture of her husband.

That meant succumbing to intense "grilling" by stars Rick Roberts, who plays Layton, and Sook-Yin Lee, who plays Chow — as well as executive producer Laszlo Barna, a giant in the field whose past projects have profiled Celine Dion, Shania Twain and Romeo Dallaire.

Still, there was one thing Layton's widow refused to reveal — the cancer that killed him. Chow has never identified what exactly led to Layton's death in August 2011, and although Barna pressed her to reveal it now, she refused.

"Cancer is vicious and we decided — I decided and Jack decided — not to talk about the one that actually killed him," Chow said in a recent interview to promote the film. "We talked about prostate cancer but prostate cancer is infinitely curable. And a lot of men have prostate cancer. We don't want to inflict despair into people that have a serious cancer disease that can take you in a few weeks."

The film Jack kicks off in early 2011, about a year after Layton revealed he was diagnosed with prostate cancer.

Boasting that his health has rebounded, he embarks on a federal election campaign to lead the New Democrats to unprecedented wins, achieving official Opposition party status for the first time in the party's 50-year history in May 2011. He died just months later at age 61.

Through flashbacks, the film traces Layton's rocky journey from Toronto municipal politics to the national stage, as well as his love affair with Chow.

"The harder part for me was piecing together (Olivia Chow's) personality," said Lee, host of CBC Radio's weekly show Definitely Not the Opera.

"She's a woman of few words — very few words — and even with this litany of questions that we assailed her with she would answer in a very brief (way). And I kept sending more and more questions to her and they were equally as brief. So I just had to sort of lean on my investigative ability as a journalist."

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There's trouble in the Community

Turmoil. Cast talks about behind-the-scenes strife of the cult hit series — and what its uncertain future may hold

Community returned as a mid-season replacement in February — for the first time without any involvement from creator Dan Harmon. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Nothing's certain in network television, but things have been especially uncertain on the set of Community, the quirky college sitcom that's been a cult favourite, but never a mainstream hit.

"Near cancellation," actress Gillian Jacobs said before a PaleyFest tribute to the series Tuesday night. "On the schedule, off the schedule. Tell us one night. We never air on that night. We lose a creator of our show. Reduced episodes. Everything that can happen has happened to us."

Cast member Chevy Chase left the series without even finishing up the current season, months after the show creator Dan Harmon was fired by Community distributor Sony Pictures Television. (Chase bolted with two episodes unfinished — and according to cast members, doesn't appear at all in one of them.)

"It's always tough to lose people," said actress Alison Brie. "It's very strange and weird. So I can only imagine that coming back for a fifth season without Chevy would also be weird. But, luckily, it didn't affect us too much this season."

Community returned as a mid-season replacement in February — for the first time without any involvement from creator Harmon.

"I think, as far as season four as a whole, I think the heart is still there," said actress Yvette Nicole Brown. "There's a lot of really great adventures to come. You guys haven't seen the best that this season has to offer yet, so I'm excited for you to see it."

As usual, the future of Community is in question. Brie said a fifth season is by no means a given. The series' latest episodes have been clobbered in the ratings by its powerhouse competition, The Big Bang Theory.

As for a possible series finale? "If I had a super-wish list, it would be the biggest paintball (fight)," answered actor Jim Rash — "like the world needs to be saved and only Community can do it. That would be a good way to end."

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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"If I had a super-wish list, it would be the biggest paintball (fight)"

Community actor Jim Rash on his ideas for a series finale

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Vintage shop owner steps into the spotlight

Frock Stars. New TV series features L.A.-based star-favourite store that peddles couture classics and plenty of fashion history

When Adele wants to make a vintage fashion statement, stylist Gaelle Paul has a go-to source: the cleverly named The Way We Wore shop.

Now TV viewers can peek inside Los Angeles store owner Doris Raymond's 19th- and 20th-century collection that's lured shoppers Anne Hathaway, Katie Holmes and Angelina Jolie, as well as top designers searching for inspiration from the past.

Quoted

"It's not like going to a thrift shop. This is a high-end, fully curated vintage clothing store."

The Way We Wore owner Doris Raymond

L.A. Frock Stars, a Smithsonian Channel series debuting 8 p.m. EST Thursday, is both a fashionista's delight and a chance to see passion at work with Raymond, who's made finding and selling great old duds a quest for more than 30 years.

"The show is about spreading the gospel of vintage," said Raymond — which translates, for example, to a 1940s jacket with tailoring and fabric that would cost $1,500 to replicate today but can be had for less than $200.

Raymond's tidy but chockful shop also has racks of impressive labels including Chanel, Versace, Halston and Gucci, and the stuff of fashion history like the first version of the Diane Von Furstenberg wrap dress that launched the designer's career.

Those are found above-stairs at the shop, to be surveyed by VIPs and vintage mavens who also can ogle — or shell out for — such rare items as an intricately made 1920s dress priced at $6,000. The ground floor is the "democratic" section, as Raymond puts it, with less-pricey garments and accessories.

But even those are likely to be in the hundreds of dollars: "It's not like going to a thrift shop. This is a high-end, fully curated vintage clothing store. It's really picky," said Raymond, who sees her stylish inventory as both art and a link to social history.

The far-from-ordinary garments are what draw stylist Paul and her client Adele, who came in recently on a scouting expedition.

The shop has "designers that I don't know where else I would find them," Paul said, such as James Galanos. "It's just great you can get those designers and their really strong pieces. It's not the average 1950s dress you find in vintage stores."

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Doris Raymond at her shop The Way We Wore. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

What's in an episode?

The six-episode series includes visits to The Way We Wore by celebrities including burlesque artist Dita von Teese and actress Debi Mazar (Entourage). A singer-songwriter, Alexandra Starlight, preparing for a showcase performance at South by Southwest, is tickled to learn that one of the glittery outfits she's trying is by Fabrice Simon, who costumed Tina Turner.

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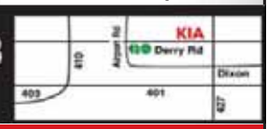

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James Franco thinks it would be awesome if a high-profile Hollywood actor would just come out of the closet already. ALL PHOTOS GETTY IMAGES

Gay rumours partly me: Franco

James Franco is willing to admit he's at least partially responsible for any speculation about whether he's gay or straight. "One of the things that's very much part of my public image is the question of my sexuality," he tells Attitude magazine. "It's not something that bothers me in the slightest. ... It's partly my doing and partly not my doing." But what he's really interested in is a high-profile actor coming out of the closet. "If there's somebody that was well-respected and very secure with their career, I could see it happening in a very positive way."

Which circle of hell will Tina Fey end up in for her Golden Globes jab, Taylor Swift wonders.

Taylor Swift can't take a joke

Taylor Swift is making some powerful enemies. She responded to Amy Poehler and Tina Fey's joke at her expense at January's Golden Globes ceremony. "You know, Katie Couric is one of my favourite people," Swift tells Vanity Fair. "She said to me she had heard a quote that she loved that said, 'There's a special place in hell for women who don't help other women.'" While Fey expressed surprise at Swift's annoyance, Poehler has a response of her own: "Aw, I feel bad if she was upset," Poehler tells the Hollywood Reporter. "I am a feminist and she is a young and talented girl. That being said, I do agree I am going to hell. But for other reasons. Mostly boring tax stuff."

METRO DISH

OUR TAKE ON THE WORLD OF CELEBRITIES

The Word

Jones was wasted when she made out with Miley's fiancé: Source

THE WORD
Dorothy Robinson
scene@metronews.ca

Rumours have been swirling around Miley Cyrus' fiancé Liam Hemsworth and Mad Men star January Jones getting "hot and heavy" at a pre-Oscar party at the Chateau Marmont in February and now Life & Style has additional dirt on the illicit hook-up.

"They went to a private house party, and right in the middle of the party, January was clinging to Liam, saying, 'You're so handsome,'" a guest reveals in the new issue of Life & Style. "He kept saying, 'We can't do this here.' Then they left holding hands and went out in the hallway and were making out. She was wasted. It wasn't good."

For their part, the magazine has pictures of the two stars riding in a car together on the night in question. "When it comes to men, January just goes for it," another source tells the magazine. "She doesn't seem to care if they're with someone or not. It's like a challenge for her, a game."

As challenges go, drunkenly making out with Liam Hemsworth seems like an easy one. What about climbing Mount Kilimanjaro? Or staying off of Facebook for an entire week? Those are actual challenges, January.

Bizarre accusations: One of Gaga's fans claims Madonna encouraged gay men to have unprotected sex during the height of the AIDS crisis.

Little monster alleges Madonna helped spread AIDS

Lady Gaga's fans are continuing the singer's feud with Madonna whether she wants them to or not, this time even accusing the Material Girl singer of helping the spread of AIDS. In a post on the Gaga fan blog Little Monster Artpop, a Gaga fan criticizes the Gay and Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation (GLAAD) for picking Madonna to present an award to Anderson Cooper at their awards ceremony next week. "Back in the 1980s, she encouraged gay men to have unprotected sex," read the post, which was removed shortly after garnering media attention. "While she certainly didn't start the disease, she and her lack of morals helped it spread." The post's author vowed to "strike back" in an unspecified manner if GLAAD did not choose another presenter.

Twitter

@justinbieber
Lovin London. #goodtimes

@solangeknowles
My son will be up wanting breakfast in 2 hours. What am I doing with myself?

@EmWatson
Look.I just want to know exactly what the next ten years of my life is going to look like ok? And to have it organised on a colour coordinated calendar. Is that really too much to ask?

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Sears

Landing smoothly and stylishly on the runway

Run Tilda, run.
Model Tilda Lindstam reveals her beauty tricks for fighting sugar cravings, skin breakouts and bloat

RICHARD PECKETT
life@metronews.ca

It's fashion month and the going is tough for the world's most sought-after models. How do you keep yourself feeling healthy and looking hot during this exciting but exhausting time?

"I drink a lot of green juices. I like anything with spinach, kale, celery, ginger and lemon. I can't handle too much dairy during the shows because I'm lactose intolerant. It makes me feel bloated and it's bad for my skin. I love Lindt Sea Salt chocolate, but I had to give it up. Sweet food gives me a massive sugar rush, which is inevitably followed by a crash. So during the shows, I'll snack on macadamia or brazil nuts and green apples if I need an energy boost."

1 run = 1 cheeseburger

"I do so much walking during casting season that I don't have time to workout. If I have time I go for a run, but that doesn't happen very often — maybe once every two months. And then I indulge in a cheeseburger."

Staying clear of rashes and breakouts

In 2012, this Swedish beauty walked more spring runways than any other model – 68 in total. HANDOUT

"I clean my face after every single show. I bring my own Chanel eye makeup remover because I'm sensitive to the MAC one that they use backstage.

It gives me rashes and a red face! And there's not much you can do about a blemish but cover it up with concealer and drink as much water as possible to clear your skin out."

NYC to London to Milan to Paris

"I get really puffy when I fly. But drinking coconut water and taking vitamin C seems to help. I also use a cooling eye mask the morning of a show if my face is still a bit swollen."

Tilda's top 5 fashion week essentials

Rosebud Perfume Co. Smith's Rosebud Salve

"I love this!"
sephora.com

MAC Studio Finish SPF 35 Concealer

"I don't really wear makeup. This is basically all I use."
maccosmetics.com

Dermalogica: clearing skin wash and active moist moisturizer

"I have very sensitive skin and Dermalogica works really well for me."
dermalogica.com

YSL Rouge Pur Couture the Mats in Rouge Rock

"If I'm going out, I keep my makeup simple. I don't wear any eyeshadow, just a dark red YSL lipstick."
yslbeautyus.com

Chanel: Démaquillant Yeux Intense, gentle bi-phase eye makeup remover

"I take my makeup off after each show."
chanel.com

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Fashion in a flash

Chico's has heard the Canadian cry

U.S. womenswear retailer Chico's is coming to Canada.

CEO David Dyer said the company is kicking off its international efforts in Canada with plans to open three of its White House 5/8 Black Market stores later this year.

The company will then open Canadian Chico's stores in 2014.

"We believe Canada is a great first foray into the international arena for Chico's FAS, as it represents a natural extension of our brands," said Dyer.

"In fact, from our robust customer information, we already know that there is a significant number of Chico's FAS customers in Canada. We expect those customers to welcome our White House 5/8 Black Market and Chico's stores into their neighbourhoods."

Canadians can already shop online at Chico's, which offers shipping north of the border.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

The Kit

Canadian street style

Spotted in: Toronto

Madison

Actress

Age: 24

What she's wearing

Vintage hat, Karen Walker sunglasses, Armani vintage jacket, vintage shirt, Roots sweater, Alexander Wang bag, Wilfred pants and Miista shoes.

Her inspiration

"I lived in New York for three years so I was exposed to a lot of daring street style and the Sartorialist is definitely one of my favourite blogs."

THE KIT PHOTOBLOGGER: KAYLA ROCCA, KAYLAROCCAPHOTOGRAPHY.COM

THE KIT IS A MULTI-PLATFORM BEAUTY AND FASHION BRAND WHICH INCLUDES AN INTERACTIVE MAGAZINE AND DYNAMIC APP, A WEBSITE, KIT CHAT – AN E-NEWSLETTER PROGRAM – AND A WEEKLY NEWSPAPER SECTION TOO!

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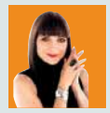

JEANNE SPACE
Jeanne Beker
life@metronews.ca

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@Jeanne_Beker: What's the best way to psych yourself to get back into the work mode? My vacation's coming to an end. :(

@PiperGilles: finding a new project to work on :)

@Jeanne_Beker: From where I LIE... Cruising the Pacific on a Sunday afternoon!

@Jeanne_Beker: Beautiful hand-carvings for sale @FSCostaRica

@Jeanne_Beker: Living the good life, in Costa Rica!

@maryjanestitt: Only @Jeanne_Beker can look so elegant as she tweets aboard a catamaran hurtling through space!

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Venus is serving up a style all her own

EleVen-love.
Tennis pro making a racket in the fashion world with her court-ready clothing line

You know the whole thing about a woman's prerogative to change her mind? Venus Williams can't do it — at least not when it comes to her tennis wardrobe.

She already knows that come August at the U.S. Open, she'll be wearing a black floral tennis dress, and for tournaments earlier in the summer, it'll be pink python prints.

Williams wears almost exclusively her own line called EleVen, which she has helmed since 2007. Both looks are part of the fall collection, which Williams offered a preview of on Monday at a Manhattan photo studio. The spring collection that goes into stores later this month has some tie-dye prints, nautical stripes and a more painterly watercolour floral.

What's she up to now?

Last week, Venus was in South America playing in the Brazil Cup.

- Williams maintains a full schedule of tennis tournaments and appearances, although she did announce that she was diagnosed in 2011 with an autoimmune disease that slows her down.

"When we are designing, I am narrowing down which ones I'm wearing. I have got to plan ahead. ... The retailers want to know right away which ones I'll be wearing," she says. This decisiveness works for her and her busy life, she adds. "I have to be effective with my time."

Eventually, she'd like to take all of her tennis outfits — including the "grandma floral" skirt her mother made her for her first pro match when she was only 13 years old — and join them with the on-court wardrobe of her sister Serena for some sort of museum exhibit.

Williams, 32, says she absorbs trend reports and keeps her eye on the runways for ideas, but some things just don't translate to athletic clothes: the Victorian boudoir trend, for example. "Yeah, that one, with all the lace, didn't work for sport, and I'm not sure about menswear, either."

Designing EleVen has also made her more aware of what's in her closet, including a lot of white, black, green and floral prints. She steers pretty clear of purple and magenta, and it took her a while to warm up to red, orange and turquoise, but, Williams says, her collection can't be only her favourite colours and styles. "I'm loosening up," she said.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Venus Williams sports a Blue Slice Tank from the EleVen By Venus Williams Summer 2013 collection, available April 15 at select retailers and boutique tennis shops. ELEVEN BY VENUS WILLIAMS / THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Cookbook of the Week

An English tradition

Inspired by the fine cuisine served at the fictional Downton Abbey and other grand English country houses at the turn of the 20th century, this book combines food, history and healthy eating.

Included are 220 recipes and colour photos that provide suggestions for entertaining at brunch, afternoon tea, cocktails and dinner. In addition, there is a selection of recipes to host a traditional garden party, and to celebrate English holidays throughout the year. METRO

Downton Abbey's dining room

The latest season of the hit show recently wrapped, so to hold you over, try these inspired dishes at your next dinner party. It's time to entertain like an Edwardian

THE CANADIAN PRESS/ ABBEY COOKS ENTERTAIN BY PAMELA FOSTER

Abbey Cooks Entertain is for "all the cooks who wish to bring a touch of English tradition to their own Abbey," writes Pamela Foster. HANDOUT

Appy. Asparagus Salad with Saffron Vinaigrette

This classic salad was served in first class on the Titanic, and to the servants at a special occasion in Season 3 of Downton Abbey.

1. Snap off woody ends of asparagus at a natural breaking point. Save ends for stock pot.

2. In pot of boiling water, cook asparagus spears 5 minutes or until tender but not limp. Drain and run spears under cold water until cooled. Drain and set aside while you prepare dressing.

3. In bowl, stir saffron into 5 ml (1 tsp) boiling water. Let stand 2 minutes or until saffron softens. Stir in vinegar, mustard and sugar. Whisk in olive oil. Season mixture with salt and pepper. Add asparagus and diced pepper and toss gently to coat with vinaigrette.

4. Line a platter with salad greens and arrange asparagus mixture decoratively on top. THE CANADIAN PRESS/ ABBEY COOKS ENTERTAIN BY PAMELA FOSTER (PAMELA POWERED INC., 2012)

Ingredients

- 500 g (1 lb) asparagus
- 1 ml (1/4 tsp) saffron threads
- 22 ml (1 1/2 tbsp) white wine vinegar
- 2 ml (1/2 tsp) Dijon-style mustard
- Pinch of sugar
- 45 ml (3 tbsp) extra-virgin olive oil
- Salt and pepper, to taste
- 1/2 sweet red pepper, diced
- Salad greens, for garnish

Just the sweet stuff

Charlotte Russe is a French dessert made with ladyfingers and filled with a fruit-flavoured cream filling set with gelatin, a favourite ingredient in Edwardian cookery.

The show-stopper has made the odd cameo appearance on Downton Abbey.

In Season 3, Ethel, who formerly worked at Downton Abbey and fell on hard times, is retained as Isobel Crawley's housemaid. When Mrs. Bird, the cook, quit, Ethel had to cook as well. She got some help from Mrs. Patmore to create the simple Russe.

1. Clean and set out 4 to 6 individual charlotte moulds. No moulds? Improvise with large soup cans, both ends removed.

Ingredients

- 25 ml (5 tsp) gelatin powder
- 175 ml (3/4 cup) sugar or sugar substitute, divided
- 500 ml (2 cups) strawberry purée (about 300 ml/1 1/4 cups strawberries, mashed), divided
- 375 ml (1 1/2 cups) whipping cream, whipped soft
- 375 ml (1 1/2 cups) non-fat plain yogurt, plus extra for garnish
- Ladyfingers
- 250 to 500 ml (1 to 2 cups) sliced berries

Strawberry Chocolate Russe

This recipe serves four to six. THE CANADIAN PRESS HANDOUT

2. In bowl, mix gelatin powder with 30 ml (2 tbsp) of the sugar. In a saucepan, warm 250 ml (1 cup) of strawberry purée with remaining sugar. Mix gelatin-sugar mixture into warm strawberry purée, mixing well to prevent any lumps from forming. Add in remaining strawberry purée and let mix cool.

3. Fold in one-third of whipped cream and then remaining whipped cream and yogurt.

4. Carefully trim ladyfingers into 7.5-cm (3-inch) lengths. Ends can be used in the base. Stand ladyfingers on end with rounded side out and rounded edge up, and carefully line inside of each mould, ensuring there are no gaps. Place scrap pieces inside to create base.

5. Gently pour or spoon filling into moulds. If desired, you could add a layer of chopped sliced berries in the middle and then add more filling to the top.

6. Refrigerate charlotte for at least 3 or 4 hours. Filling will be solid so you should be able to easily, but gently, wiggle the mould away from the charlotte. Garnish with fresh berries and a dollop of non-fat strained yogurt. THE CANADIAN PRESS/ ABBEY COOKS ENTERTAIN BY PAMELA FOSTER (PAMELA POWERED INC., 2012)

Cook live with Vikram Vij

Last-minute grocery list

Winning chef in Vancouver and Metro want to help you find time for family meals. Our mission starts in the form of Canada's first live online cooking show to air today at 6 p.m. ET at metronews.ca/vij-cooklive.

If you still haven't downloaded the grocery list, we've got you covered.

Vij Family's Chicken Curry

- 1/2 cup canola oil
- 2 cups finely chopped onions (2 large)
- 3-inch stick of cinnamon
- 3 tbsp finely chopped garlic
- 2 tbsp chopped ginger
- 2 cups chopped tomatoes (2 large)
- 1 tbsp salt
- 1/2 tsp ground black pepper
- 1 tsp turmeric
- 1 tbsp ground cumin
- 1 tbsp ground coriander
- 1 tbsp garam masala
- 1/2 tsp ground cayenne pepper
- 3 lbs chicken thighs, bone in
- 1 cup sour cream, stirred
- 2 cups water
- 1/2 cup chopped cilantro (including stems)

Cumin Basmati Rice

- 2 cups basmati rice
- 3 cups cold water for soaking
- 1/4 cup canola oil
- 1 tbsp cumin seeds
- 1 cup finely chopped onions (1 medium-large)
- 3 3/4 cups water for cooking

- **Have a question?** They can be tweeted live during the show using the hashtag #vijcooklive.
- **Online.** Remember to visit metronews.ca/vij-cooklive today at 6 p.m. ET for Canada's first live online cooking show.

Picasso condos a real work of art

Condos range in size from 398 to 1,231 square feet. SUBMITTED

Meet the condo

- **What.** Picasso condominiums
- **Builder.** The Goldman Group and Monarch
- **Location.** 318 Richmond St. W.
- **Website.** monarchgroup.net
- **Pricing.** From the $300,000s to over $800,000

The project overview

Award-winning Teeple Architects designed the unique avant-garde exterior that is destined to turn heads in this significant area of Toronto. Edgy white cubic volumes will project from the tower and appear to float in midair, resulting in phenomenal views of the city and lake.

Location and transit

Phenomenal location on Richmond between John and Peter Streets in Toronto's hot Entertainment District. Walk to University TTC subway line, or catch the Queen streetcar. Hop on the nearby Gardiner Expressway. The downtown core is mere minutes away.

In the neighbourhood

Residents will be able to walk to myriad restaurants, and there's spectacular shopping along fashion-forward Queen Street West. Plenty of entertainment with the Air Canada Centre, Rogers Centre, Roy Thomson Hall and the TIFF Bell Lightbox.

Building amenities

Perched on the 10th floor, the Picasso Club has a party room that overlooks a spacious terrace with barbecues, a hot tub, tanning decks, an outdoor fireplace and panoramic views. The club also features the Cue Lounge with a billiards table and TV.

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Rooftop Surfing

Excitement surrounds the National Home Show

BRYAN TUCKEY
President and CEO of the Building Industry and Land Development Association (BILD) can be found at twitter.com/bildgta), (facebook.com/bildgta), and bildblogs.ca.

The National Home Show is less than a week away and with Canada Blooms once again co-locating to create North America's largest home and garden event, you can be sure to expect another spectacular display of innovative products and new ideas.

More than 200,000 attend the National Home Show each year, and there's good reason why. The show boasts more than 700 exhibitors, as well as a number of celebrity speakers and designers on hand to help you with your latest renovation or home improvement project, whether it's indoor, outdoor, custom home or condo renovation.

Every year, the National Home Show features a Dream Home that visitors can walk through and explore, right inside the Direct Energy Centre. This year's presentation invites you to check out the unique world of modular building with a 2,000-square-foot, three bedroom, three bathroom Dream Home, complete with Dream Garage — all built in a climate-controlled, state-of-the-art indoor facility!

Those of you looking to renovate your home or condo this year will be pleased to know that our Destination Renovation booth is back for another successful year. As always, we set up more than 70 display boards of before and after photos of recent renovations and custom homes of all types and budgets so you can get inspired about your upcoming project.

Destination Renovation is BILD's feature presentation at the National Home Show. We invite homeowners to drop by booth 1916 and learn about the national RenoMark program, as well as get free renovation advice from one of our professional RenoMark contractors.

Every year we have people that come down to the booth with drawings or photos and they always walk away with great information from our professional renovators. We'll also have a contact list of the GTA's RenoMark renovators available at the booth, as well as the RenoGuide — a handy booklet that outlines the five steps to a successful home renovation.

What's hot on the condo market

DUNCAN MCALLISTER

1. Airport

Canadian Real Estate Wealth Investor Forum, March 9-10 at the Toronto Congress Centre, 650 Dixon Rd. Last chance to register.

CONTACT: CALL 1-855-283-2721 OR EMAIL REGISTRATION@KMIMEDIA.CA

2. Leslieville

Open House: East Village Leslieville, pre-construction modern stacked townhome, 1321 Gerrard St. E., March 9-10 from 12 to 4 p.m.

CONTACT: CALL 416-413-1300

3. Condo seminar

Making your way in the pre-construction world. March 12 from 7 to 8 p.m., Cityscape Real Estate Ltd.,144 Simcoe St.

CONTACT: CALL 416-408-0222 TO REGISTER, OR EMAIL SALES@CONDOCHICKS.COM

4. Waterfront

Open House: Waterfront condo, two plus one bedrooms, two bathrooms, 1910 Lake Shore Blvd. W., March 9 to 10 from 2 to 4 p.m.

CONTACT: CALL 416-489-2121

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Seasonal designer deals

Throughout the year sales are almost guaranteed when clearing out old stock and bringing in new items. But knowing exactly when old stock is being discounted is the key to saving money on large ticket items. Everyone knows the best time to buy a winter coat is at the end of winter, and buying a snowmobile in the middle of summer can get you the best deal. But what about those home-related items we all need? Here's a list of some big savings you should expect over the next month or two.

DESIGN CENTRE
Karl Lohnes
home@metronews.ca

Chinaware and flatware

Spring is when new tabletop designs are introduced (just in time for June weddings). Older china and flatware patterns go on sale to make room for the new stuff. **Tip:** If you have a great collection already, look for pieces to complete your set on sale. If investing in new tableware, keep the colours neutral so that the look stays current for a long time.

Perfume

The two biggest times for perfume sales is Valentine's Day and Mother's Day, so those in-between months is when perfume companies love to have promotions. **Tip:** Perfume keeps for a very long time. Consider buying as Christmas gifts.

Luggage

Many travel throughout the summer and just before that time is when new luggage styles are introduced. Look to the early spring for retailers clearing out old styles. **Tip:** The full set deals are the most economical. Shop with a friend and split up the set.

Houses & condos

April is when most homes get listed for sale. That means the best selection and often the best competitive prices you will see. If you wait until the summer months you will find either the less desirable homes that haven't sold yet or a very limited choice on the market. Tip: Don't under estimate the potential of a less expensive place and adding some custom upgrades yourself. You'll then have exactly what you wanted without spending any more money.

Vacuum cleaners

Spring cleaning time starts in April and retailers are making room for their new models. **Tip:** Look for vacuums that are smaller, lightweight and quieter.

Televisions

The biggest time for television sales is the fall and early winter. After Christmas there isn't much promise for selling televisions as we start thinking about spring/summer activities, so retailers are trying to get rid of the 2012/early 2013 models. **Tip:** Buy your television ahead of a family room renovation and keep it boxed until the reno is finished.

Cookware

Not a lot of pot/pan sales happen until fall, when retailers often have great incentives to purchase full sets. **Tip:** Fall is a great time to purchase some as a wedding gift or for a second set for a cottage and buying a full 10-piece boxed set will usually offer up the best value overall.

"Off-season" shopping

1. Do your research. When it comes to technology, things move quickly. Find out what features will be new in 2013 and see if any of them may have been introduced on last year's models.
2. Buy in full sets. Whether it be buying luggage, china, bedding or cookware, purchasing the entire set will generally reap larger savings overall.
3. Keep things neutral. A simpler colour will tend to last a lot longer than last year's trendiest colour.
4. Buy ahead of the game. Purchasing perfume for a friend's future birthday gift, tableware as a wedding gift or a television prior to your renovation will allow you to save money on something you inevitably would be buying anyway.

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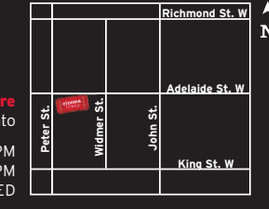

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Host Jeremy Sham of the new series Made in Milwaukee. HANDOUT

Creative concepts help add comfort and function to your home

DIY ideas. Bringing in your own artistic flair may be just what your family room needs

Creating a space you want to live in doesn't have to be boring. Get inspired by new series Made in Milwaukee, where Jeremy Sham and his team don't just renovate rooms but create original works of art.

It can be tough to get design inspiration for a family room because they tend to always be messy — full of clutter and people. However, that doesn't have to be the case with these fun ideas:

Organization

Create stations within the room to keep mess and clutter in one spot for easy clean-up, while keeping an area sectioned off for the adults. Add a large television shelving unit to put your movies and collections on display.

You can get creative with your shelving options — such as re-using hardwood flooring for durable shelves, or plexiglass shelving where items will appear as if they're floating.

Walls

Breathe life into your family room with paint. Opt for an ombré wall getting lighter with the colour as the paint gets closer to the ceiling, which creates the illusion of high ceilings.

Painting one wall in the room a bright color or applying a dramatic wall paper design can add an artsy element to the room. Magnetic paint is a kid friendly and fun option. Simply paint over the current wall color and let dry, then stick and unstick to your heart's content.

Another unique idea to consider for your children's entertainment is a chalkboard wall or chalkboard table top. Chalk board paint is easily accessible and has the same application process as regular paint.

Décor

3D wall art is a popular trend with endless options such as stickers, plastic flowers and butterflies, and even dinosaur heads.

Arrange the 3D butterflies and flowers in an eye-engaging design and you will feel as if you're at an art gallery.

Next time you're considering renovating your dingy family room, think originality not ordinary. Both you and your family will thank you for it.

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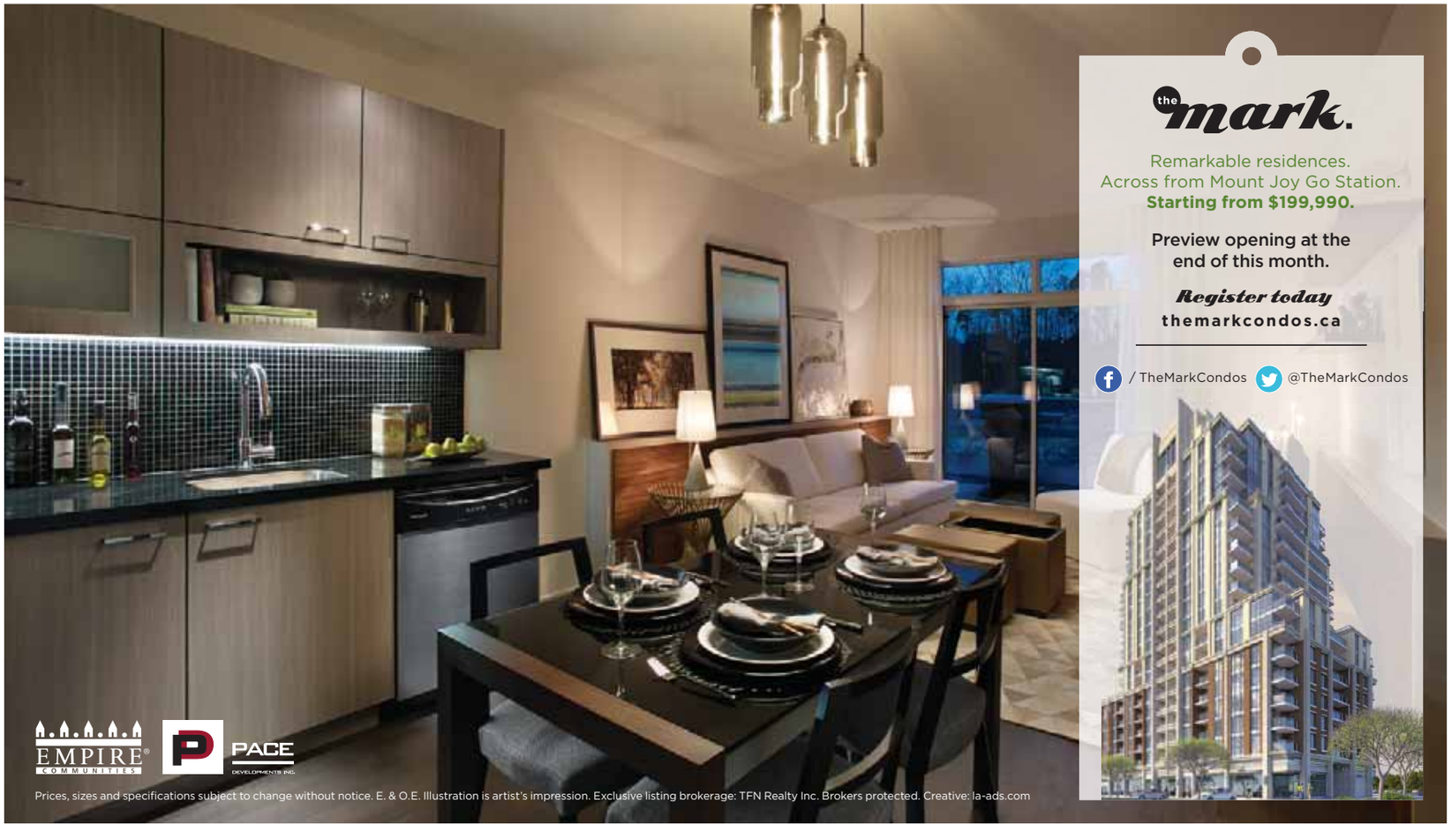
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Number sequence turns up in plant, art world

Math. What do pine cones and paintings have in common?

Better known by his pen name, Fibonacci, 13th century Italian mathematician Leonardo of Pisa came up with a number sequence that keeps popping up throughout the plant kingdom — and the art world too.

A Fibonacci sequence is simple enough to generate: Starting with the number one, you merely add the previous two numbers in the sequence to generate the next one. So the sequence, early on, is 1, 2, 3, 5, 8, 13, 21 and so on.

Numbers and plants

To see how it works in nature, go outside and find an intact pine cone (or any other cone). Look carefully and you'll notice that the bracts that make up the cone are arranged in a spiral. Actually two spirals, running in opposite directions, with one rising steeply and the other gradually from the cone's base to its tip.

Count the number of spirals in each direction — a job made easier by dabbing the bracts along one line of each spiral with a coloured marker. The number of spirals in either direction is a Fibonacci number. I just counted five parallel spirals going in one direction and eight parallel spirals going in the opposite direction on a Norway spruce cone.

Or you might examine a pineapple. Focus on one of the hexagonal scales near the fruit's midriff and you can pick out three spirals, each aligned to a different pair of opposing sides of the hexagon.

One set rises gradually, another moderately and the third steeply. Count the number of spirals and you'll find eight gradual, 13 moderate and 21 steeply rising ones. Fibonacci numbers again.

Scales and bracts are modified leaves, and the spiral arrangements in pine cones and pineapples reflect the spiral growth habit of stems. To confirm this, bring in a leafless stem from some tree or shrub and look at its buds, where leaves were attached.

The buds range up the stem in a spiral pattern, which kept each leaf out of the shadow of leaves just above it. The amount of spiralling varies from plant to plant, with new leaves developing in some fraction — such as 2/5, 3/5, 3/8 or 8/13 — of a spiral. Eureka, the numbers in those fractions are Fibonacci numbers!

Numbers and art

I haven't forgotten about the artists. It turns out there are certain proportions we humans generally find pleasing: the rectangular proportions of a painting, for example, or the placement of a focal point in a painting.

In a painting, the golden ratio states that the ratio of the distance of the focal point from the closer side to the farther side of a painting is the same as the ratio of the distance from the farther side to the painting's whole width.

A pleasing ratio, it turns out, is 0.618 ... or, if you want to use the inverse, 1.618. Enter Fibonacci: Divide any Fibonacci number by the Fibonacci number before or after it and you get 0.618 or 1.618, not exactly at first, but closer and closer the higher the Fibonacci number you start with. Try it.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

A spruce cone with a marked Fibonacci number sequence. A numbers sequence thought up by the 13th century Italian mathematician known as Fibonacci plays out in nature, from pine cones to pineapples.

LEE REICH/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Toronto's Condo Chicks: branding pioneers

Trends. Metro talks to Erica of Condo Chicks about how the pair got started

CONDO TRENDS
Duncan McAllister
life@metronews.ca

Joy Paterson and Erica Smith are Toronto's Condo Chicks. The clever marketing brand has become a well-known name on the condo scene and is a lot easier to remember than Cityscape Real Estate Ltd, Brokerage, their official company title.

In an industry where partnerships are rare, how did the Condo Chicks get started?

"We met seven or eight years ago in a commercial real estate class. At that time, it was right before the condo market in Toronto got a little bit crazy and her and I just decided that it was time for us to come up with a brand that people remembered but also something that was kind of fun and unique, so that's how the Condo Chicks were born."

Social media has become a very important and powerful sales tool in the real estate business. How do you work with it?

"To tell you the truth, I think we were one of the pioneers in social media in the real estate industry. A lot of first-time homebuyers and the generations that are buying condos turn to the computer for information. If you can make yourself a presence on your website, Twitter, Facebook and LinkedIn, the chances of potential buyers and clients finding you are increased quite considerably."

There's been a lot of talk lately that the market is slowing down, condo prices are receding. What's going on out there?

"Since 2008 they have been saying that the condo market's going to burst, it's run its course, but you definitely see slower periods during the year. At the end of last year, inventory and pricing did go down about 23 to 24 per cent, but we attribute that more to the season. Right now we're seeing more of a buyers' market."

Are you seeing more single-family, end-users or is there still a large proportion of investors?

"I would say it's starting to balance out a little bit more. You have a lot of empty-nesters from the suburbs that are looking to move into the city. In my opinion, that's considered a healthy market. You never want to buy in a building where you have 90 per cent investors because it's the end-users that actually maintain the value of the building."

We've seen a pivot toward mid-rise recently, away from the point towers; smaller buildings in selected areas just outside the core. Do you think it's a new trend in Toronto?

"Well, I do. People still gravitate towards those because it's hard to have that community feel when you've got 2,000 residents in a 78-storey building. It's a little bit of a difference of experience than being in a nice, eight to nine-storey building where there's more of a culture and community."

Condo Chicks Joy Paterson, left, and Erica Smith. HANDOUT

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UFFI problems

LEGAL MATTERS
Jeffrey Cowan
home@metronews.ca

I was recently doing some renovations to my newly purchased home and I discovered that the walls had been injected with a type of insulation known as Urea formaldehyde foam insulation (UFFI). I spoke with my lawyer about the problem and he examined the Agreement of Purchase and Sale. In the agreement, the seller warranted that 'to the best of her knowledge', the property had not been insulated with UFFI. When questioned about the present news of UFFI in the walls, the seller's response was that she didn't know about it and therefore she is not responsible. I am now faced with a costly bill to have the UFFI removed. What are my options?

Back in the 1970s and 1980s the government was promoting energy efficiency in houses and homeowners were having UFFI piped into their homes until it was banned in the 1980's. Since then, the standard contracts for the sale of homes has had a clause that states "to the best of the seller's knowledge" the property has not been insulated with UFFI. So, if you can prove that the seller knew that there was UFFI (which could be a hard task) you may have a chance at having the seller responsible for the removal of the insulation.

This is a serious problem although there are conflicting reports about the severity of the effects of UFFI. If you can get a straight warranty that the property has not been insulated then you are better protected. Otherwise, it looks like you may have to pay for the removal yourself. Caveat emptor (let the buyer beware).

Follow Jeff Cowan on Twitter @Cowan_Law or on the website at cowanlaw.ca

metro
MARCH BREAK
Thursday, March 7, 2013

Boredom busters

Ideas. You don't need to pack up and travel to have an enjoyable time during March break

Teach younger children how to measure ingredients and older kids how to find their way around the kitchen during a bake day. ISTOCKPHOTO/THINKSTOCK

YLVA VAN BUUREN
For Metro

Looking for things to do this March break? You don't have to go too far from home to enjoy yourself. Here are seven fabulous ideas that will keep everyone happy.

Activity jar
Here's a fun way to do something different every day — write different activities that your kids love (crafts, make pizza, Monopoly, art class) onto pieces of paper and put them into a jar. Let your kids take turns picking one activity each day.

Beach party
Turn your living room into a resort with beach towels draped over furniture, a few beach balls, and summer music (like the Beach Boys). Visit your favourite craft store for ideas — make a shell picture on coloured paper with glue and glitter, or make sand sculptures (firstpalette.com/Craft_themes/Nature/sanddoughsculptures/sanddoughsculpture.html). Wear beach clothes, including flip-flops, turn up the heat a little bit, and serve hamburgers and fruit drinks.

Make an obstacle course

- Krista Popowych, a fitness expert in Vancouver, likes to design active obstacle courses for her eight-year-old son and three-year-old daughter. The trick is to keep instructions simple and the activities fun. For example, climb the stairs two at a time, run to the playroom and jump on the mini-rebounder 50 times, crawl to your bedroom and do 10 push-ups and 10 sit-ups, then come back downstairs, put on your boots or shoes and run around the backyard three times. Timing kids is usually great motivation, Popowych says.

Bake day
Bake up a storm, says parenting expert Nanny Robina, who is featured on Cityline, and teach younger kids how to measure ingredients and older kids how to find their way around a kitchen. Choose favourite cookies and muffins, and remember that "most kids love mess so let them get their hands dirty." Alternatively, check with local large grocery stores, which often hold family cooking classes. "Then the mess is in their kitchen, not yours," Robina says.

Get crafty
The Easter bunny comes this way at the end of the month so now is a good time to decorate Easter eggs with your kids. Here's how to create hollow eggs for decorating: eggs.ca/cooking-with-eggs/eggdecorating.

Books plus
Check your local public library, which hosts programs for kids of every age — everything from an interactive puppet show at the Keshena Goodman Public Library in Halifax to a Mad Matter's Tea Party at the Collingwood, Ont., public library.

Potluck party exchange
Take your family to a neighbourhood friend's house for a movie — and you bring the dinner, Robina says. Later in the week, switch homes.

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Stay close to home for fun

YLVA VAN BUUREN
For Metro

If you are in town for March break, here are nine excellent stay-action ideas that everyone will enjoy.

Teach your children about money by giving them an opportunity to budget an activity, which may include a pizza party with their friends. JUPITERIMAGES/BRAND X PICTURES/THINKSTOCK

Explore
Introduce kids to other cultures by visiting a downtown market (Kensington, for example), a "new" restaurant (such as Ethiopian or Korean), a neat neighbourhood (such as Chinatown), or a museum.

Learn about money
Give your children an opportunity to plan an activity with a budget, says Beverley Cathcart-Ross, founder, Parenting Network (parentingnetwork.ca).

"They'll follow their interests while learning about money," Cathcart-Ross says. Be prepared for anything ... they may choose a dinosaur exhibit, a game of paintball, or skating with friends at a local rink followed by a pizza party at home.

Memories
Take a trip down memory lane and drive through the neighbourhood where you grew up. Be sure to include a few favourite stops such as a nearby park or ice cream parlour.

Get outside
Doing activities with your kids is a great way to teach them to have an active lifestyle. Grab your toboggan and head to the nearest hill.

Local heroes
Book a tour at the local fire station to learn about fire safety. Some fire station tours, for example, include a close-up look at vehicles and technical firefighting equipment that firefighters use daily.

Special meal
Richmond Hill mom Sarah Palter likes to take her kids to a buffet once during March break.

"Kids love to choose and I make it extra special and fun by letting them have whatever they want, even dessert first if they want."

Wave
There is nothing more fun than playing in the waves while it's snowing outside. Check online for an indoor wave pool near you.

Camp
Municipal parks and recreation departments provide a range of reasonably priced March break camps and activities. In Ottawa, for example, there is an emphasis on sports and crafts.

Search online for a maple syrup festival near you. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE FILE

Visit a maple syrup festival

Visit a maple syrup festival (search online for a farm near you) or make your own maple syrup "Popsicles," says Richmond Hill mom Sarah Palter.

While kids find fresh, clean snow in the backyard and pile it up, mom boils two cups of real maple syrup and transfers it to a container with a spout. Then pour the hot maple syrup in a line on the snow, wait 30 seconds and invite kids to roll their own maple syrup candy around a Popsicle stick. YLVA VAN BUUREN

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Tuesday March 12, 11am
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If you plan to travel over the March break, secure your home before your getaway. NEWS CANADA

Travelling? Keep your home safe and secure

March break is here and families across Canada are packing up for a vacation away.

Whether you are spending a week in the sun, on the ski hill, or visiting family, you want to know that the house you have left behind for the week is safe, protected and will be in good shape upon your return.

"Many Canadian families plan to travel over March break and want to know their home will be just as they've left it after returning from a vacation away," says Ian Pattinson, vice-president, Smart Home Monitoring, Rogers Communications. "There are some simple ways to ensure your home will be kept safe, and new home security options to give you the ultimate peace of mind whether you choose to go away for a week, or all season long."

Here are five steps you can follow to secure and prepare your home before your March break getaway:

New security options

"There are some simple ways to ensure your home will be kept safe, and new home security options to give you the ultimate peace of mind whether you choose to go away for a week, or all season long."

Ian Pattinson, vice-president, Smart Home Monitoring, Rogers Communications

• Check that all windows, doors, gates and garage doors are properly locked before you leave. Make sure to remove any spare keys from obvious hiding spots like doormats or flower pots.

• Arrange for a friend or neighbour to check up on your home every couple of days. Ask them to bring in your mail, shovel your driveway if needed and water your plants.

• Set your lights and thermostat, and regularly check up on your home through a home security and home automation system. Today's latest home security and home automation systems do more than provide a simple alarm system. Some systems allow you to control heat levels, lights and small appliances, all from your smartphone or tablet. Real-time alerts are also sent to you via email or text message so you can know the instant something happens to your home, from wherever you are.

• Automation of lighting, thermostats and small appliances may cut energy costs. Unplugging small appliances like your toaster and coffee maker will save energy.

• Make your home look occupied. Place your newspaper subscription on hold. Park a car in the driveway. Put light timers on your light fixtures.

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Checklist. Have all your travel bases covered

Before leaving for your March break vacation, it's important to take precautions so you and your family have a safe trip. ISTOCKPHOTO/THINKSTOCK

It's time to pack up the kids and hit the road for a family adventure. But before leaving home this March break, it's important to take proper precautions to ensure you and your family have a safe and happy vacation. A few simple steps before leaving for your trip will allow you to enjoy time away with loved ones.

Dave Minor, vice-president, TD Insurance, recommends adding the following to-do's to your vacation checklist before heading out of town:

Think about travel insurance

Planning to get away from it all or just out of the province? One thing you don't want to leave behind is the quality medical care and coverage you have at home, so be sure to review the terms of your coverage carefully before leaving town. While you never want to think the worst-case scenario will happen while you are away, it's best to be prepared. Some credit cards may even include basic travel coverage and allow you to enhance your coverage, so be sure to check with your credit card issuer.

Protect your identity

Just because you are on vacation doesn't mean fraudsters are, too. Every year, thousands of Canadians fall prey to identity thieves and are left with big bills, bad credit and a tarnished financial identity. While it's important to take safety measures while travelling, such as keeping your purse or bag close to your body, or being aware of your surroundings, you can take action against fraudsters before leaving town.

Look after your home while away

A mailbox stuffed with mail and newspapers on the front step are sure signs that you are out of town, and can be used to a burglar's advantage. Before heading on vacation, take the necessary precautions to make it look like you are still living at home. Cancel your newspaper, ask your neighbour to collect your mail or shovel your driveway if there's snow, and leave a car parked in the driveway. Consider installing extra security measures — security alarms can decrease your insurance premiums, and deadbolt locks will provide extra protection.

NEWS CANADA

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Pack smart for a smooth getaway

March is a great time to escape the Canadian winter and travel with your family, but travelling with babies and kids can be challenging. The last thing you want is to be held up at airport security. Getting through screening quickly and easily will help get your family vacation off to a great start.

Here are the Canadian Air Transport Security's tips to make your next family getaway as smooth as possible.

Bring snacks to keep your baby happy. For parents travelling with kids younger than two, baby food, formula, medications, milk, water and juice are exempt from the 100 ml (3.4-ounce) liquid restriction for carry-on baggage. The amounts must be reasonable for the length of your vacation and these items must be presented to the screening officer. There are no restrictions on solid food products.

Use the special security screening line for families and arrive early to give yourself more time to clear security.

Reduce the likelihood of additional screening by dressing yourself and your kids in clothing and shoes that don't have metal accents. Let your child walk through the metal detector if they can do it on their own.

Getting through airport screening quickly will help get your vacation off to a great start. ISTOCKPHOTO/THINKSTOCK

Remove infants from their stroller or carrier and hold them while proceeding through the metal detector. The stroller or carrier will have to be X-rayed. Never leave your baby in a carrier on the X-ray belt.

Pack toys in your child's carry-on baggage to keep them entertained on your flight. Batteries for toys, cameras, gaming devices and other personal items are allowed in carry-on baggage, but some restrictions apply.

Additional tips are available online at catsa.gc.ca, on the mobile site m.catsa.gc.ca and Twitter @catsa_gc.

NEWS CANADA

Keep tabs on your trip with your tablet

For many Canadians, winter is a time to escape the cold and dreary weather. Whether you are hitting the beach or exploring your own town like a tourist, many are gearing up for a vacation or staycation this March break.

Stay more organized, informed and entertained on your vacation by bringing along a tablet. Here are a few suggestions on how to use your tablet while you are away:

- Stay in touch with friends and family — message, call or video chat on your tablet with your mother or loved one about the food or museums you have visited.
- Organize your documents — store all your travel documents, hotel bookings and flight schedules on your tablet for quick access when needed.
- Explore — use Google Maps or other applications to uncover the biggest attractions, restaurants or museums close by.
- Be entertained — for the plane, train or automobile travel time or just relaxing on the beach, keep yourself or your kids amused by using your tablet to play games, watch movies, read a book or listen to music.
- Document your trip — take photos, write blog entries and share with your friends and family back home all about your adventures.

NEWS CANADA

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MMA

Shields picked to fight The Chosen One at UFC 161

Former Strikeforce champion Jake Shields will face highly rated welterweight Tyron "The Chosen One" Woodley at UFC 161 in Winnipeg on June 16.

Heavyweight Pat "HD" Barry, meanwhile, will take on former LSU fullback Shawn "The Savage" Jordan. THE CANADIAN PRESS

MLB spring training

Hunter homers as Tigers top Jays

Torii Hunter hit his first home run with the Detroit Tigers, Justin Verlander allowed one hit in four innings and the Detroit Tigers beat the Toronto Blue Jays 4-1 on Wednesday.

Brandon Morrow started for Toronto and allowed one unearned run in two innings while striking out three. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

MLB

Teixeira latest injured Yankee

Mark Teixeira is going to be out until at least early May with a strained right wrist tendon, the latest major injury setback for the New York Yankees.

Teixeira was hurt swinging a bat on Tuesday in an indoor cage during pre-game warm-ups with the U.S. WBC team. Yankees doctors in New York on Wednesday predicted he will miss eight to 10 weeks. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Maple Leafs goaltender James Reimer makes a save on Senators centre Kyle Turris at Air Canada Centre on Wednesday. FRANK GUNN/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Leafs ride early lead to win over Senators

NHL. Toronto holds off Ottawa's late charge for upper hand in Battle of Ontario

On the strength of an ugly knockout and an early lead, the Toronto Maple Leafs won the latest instalment of the Battle of Ontario by holding on to beat the Ottawa Senators 5-4 in NHL action on Wednesday.

Tyler Bozak, Jay McClement, James van Riemsdyk, Phil Kessel and Nazem Kadri scored for Toronto before a crowd of 19,412 at Air Canada Centre.

On Wednesday

5	4
Leafs	Senators

Mika Zibanejad, Zack Smith, Daniel Alfredsson and Colin Greening replied for Ottawa, which fell behind 3-0 before fighting back in the third to make it 3-2 early and 5-4 late.

The Leafs had difficulties burying the visitors and found themselves under the cosh late in the game after Sens captain Alfredsson made it 5-3. Greening then stuffed in the puck to make it 5-4 at 18:03 with Sens goalie Ben Bishop on the bench.

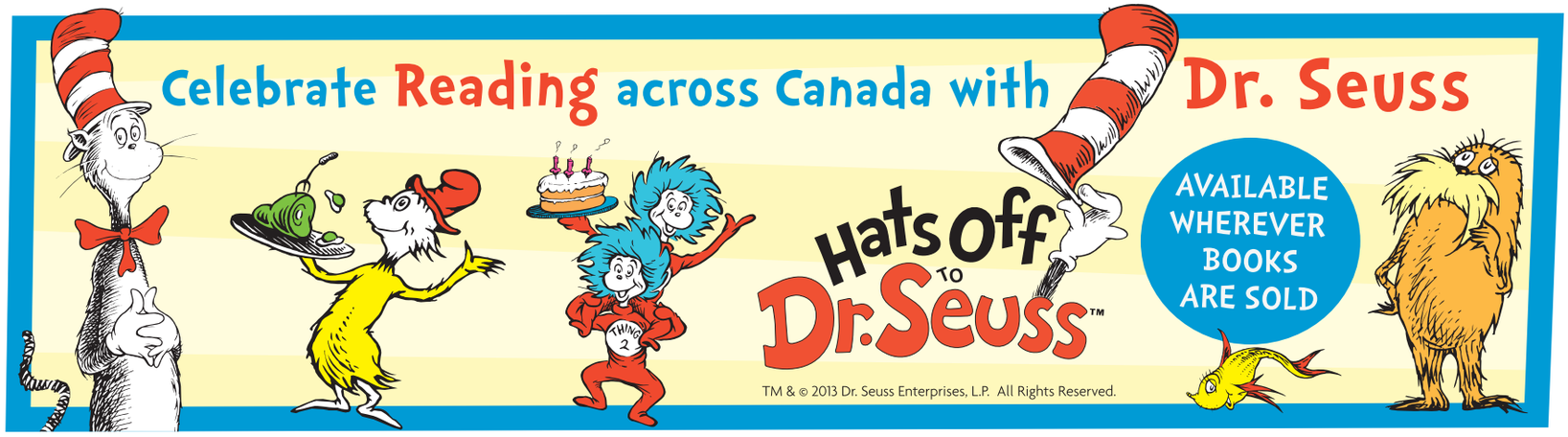
As usual, Stompin' Tom Connors' The Hockey Song was played midway through the third period. It made for a sad interlude this time, given news during the game that the Canadian music legend had died at 77.

"Stompin' Tom, you'll be missed. Thanks for all the memories and the greatest hockey song ever," PA announcer Andy Frost said during the song.

The game marked the halfway point of the truncated season for both Toronto (15-9-0) and Ottawa (12-8-4).

Before the goals, came the fights.

It took just 26 seconds before mayhem erupted with six-foot-five Toronto tough guy Frazer McLaren taking on six-foot-three Dave Dziurzynski at a faceoff. McLaren ended the fight violently and decisively when he caught the Sens forward flush with a right to the chin, toppling him face down. Dziurzynski was slow getting up and eventually needed help from two teammates to skate off the ice. THE CANADIAN PRESS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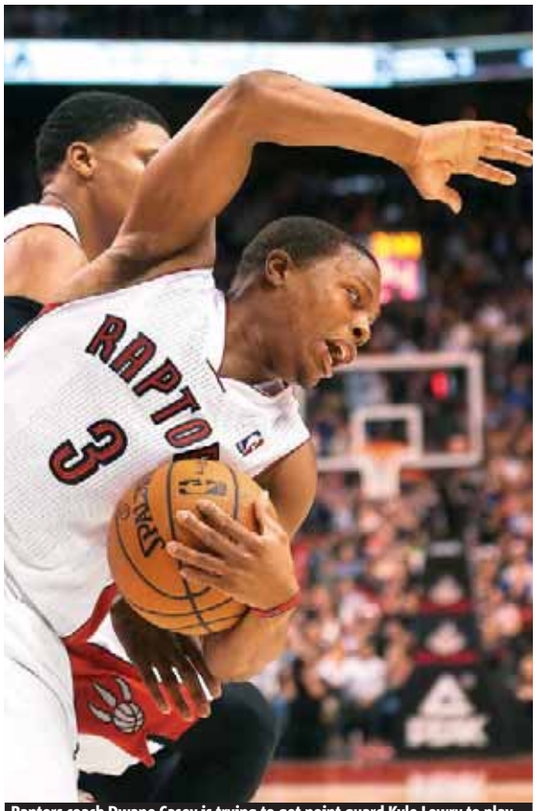

Raptors coach Dwane Casey is trying to get point guard Kyle Lowry to play more conservatively on the defensive end. STEVE RUSSELL/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

House always wins: Raps trying to limit Lowry's risk taking

NBA. Point guard's aggressive defence becoming problem for head coach Casey

There's a bit of gambler in Toronto Raptors point guard Kyle Lowry.

He likes to sneak around after a Raptors shot goes up and gamble that he'll get a steal or disrupt the opponent. It's a chance he takes a handful of times a game.

Sometimes it works, sometimes it doesn't and if coach Dwane Casey had his druthers, it's not something that would happen at all because of the trickle-down impact it has on his team's defence.

If Lowry's lurking around under the basket, the Raptors are already defending four-on-five in transition and that's never a good thing.

Lowry eventually catches up to the play but the pressure it puts on the team's wings is huge.

Casey has seen too many instances where two guards and a small forward are attacking the Raptors while Lowry's trying to get back on defence and the team's wings are a step behind as well.

"What happens is we've got to compensate for Kyle — that's a habit of his, going in to get the boards," said Casey.

"That's something we've been working on because we know that's a habit of Kyle's, we've been trying to break him of it, it's a hard habit to break and he's been successful with it."

While success may come every now and then, it's not something that works consistently enough to make it worthwhile to try it all the time. Casey would prefer just about everyone sprints back.

There are guards — Jason Kidd comes quickly to mind — who disrupt transition by jamming the ball. Casey isn't a fan.

"It's almost got to be a philosophy, to come back and jam the outlet pass and that's not my philosophy — I'd rather get everybody back," said Casey.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Raptors vs. Suns

Go to metronews.ca for coverage of Wednesday night's Raptors game in Phoenix.

NBA

Knicks make do without Carmelo

Raymond Felton scored 26 points and the New York Knicks pulled away in the fourth quarter to beat the Detroit Pistons 87-77 on Wednesday night despite Carmelo Anthony's absence.

Anthony sat out after injuring his right knee Monday, but New York went on a 16-0 run in the fourth to put away the game. The Pistons were without big man Greg Monroe, who has a sore left ankle, and Detroit coach Lawrence Frank missed the game because of a personal matter.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Knicks forward Amare Stoudemire goes up for a layup on Wednesday in Auburn Hills, Mich. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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TFC see high potential in Welsh striker Earnshaw

Robert Earnshaw boots a free kick in his first game for Toronto FC. The team is looking for a much-needed boost from the veteran striker.

JEFF VINNICK/GETTY IMAGES

MLS. Well-travelled forward on loan until end of June, but thinking long-term

At 31, with a half-dozen clubs behind him, Robert Earnshaw is still up for adventure.

"I'm all about the experiences," the Welsh striker said cheerfully. "I mean, I love playing football and I'm thankful that football's given me the chance to see the world and enjoy it at the same time."

His wanderlust has brought him to Toronto FC, an MLS side in dire need of attacking help.

With designated player Danny Koevermans returning from knee surgery and Luis Silva (hamstring) and Justin Braun (concussion) also out, manager Ryan Nelsen has had few options in attack.

Fortunately Earnshaw's paperwork came through just hours before last Saturday's season opener in Vancouver.

Despite not having played a full match in months, Earnshaw did not look out of place up front.

"I think everybody saw the quality there, the potential," said Nelsen. "I mean, the poor guy had just flown around the world and had to get his immigration papers done the day before. The same with (winger) Hogan (Ephraim). They didn't complain, they just got on with it."

Earnshaw began his career with Cardiff City, before spells with Greenock Morton, West Brom, Norwich, Derby and Nottingham Forest and Maccabi Tel Aviv.

He is the only player to record a hat trick in every pro division in England.

"Sometimes you want to move from different places and you want to experience different things," said Earnshaw. "Maybe this is the right place for me."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Home opener

Toronto expects a crowd of about 26,000 at Rogers Centre this Saturday with the lower bowl "effectively sold out."

- The game is taking place under the dome because of the weather.
- TFC drew a capacity crowd of 47,658 in March 2012 when it hosted the Los Angeles Galaxy at the Rogers Centre.

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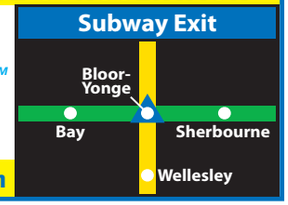

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Horoscopes

♈ Aries
March 21 - April 20
Don't worry too much if your thoughts take you in directions you would not want to admit to in public. Think before you turn thoughts into deeds though.

♉ Taurus
April 21 - May 21
Someone you meet today will instantly attract you. It could be the start of a life-long friendship or even a passionate romantic liaison. Either way it's going to be a lot of fun — and that's good.

♊ Gemini
May 22 - June 21
You may be tempted to tell the world your plans but with Mercury, your ruler, still moving retrograde that might not be such a good idea. Only let those you really trust know what you are up to.

♋ Cancer
June 22 - July 23
You will see some strange things today but don't take any of it seriously. Maintain a detached attitude, even though there may be times when you want to bang a few heads together.

♌ Leo
July 24 - Aug. 23
There is no telling what spur-of-the-moment decisions you will make over the next 24 hours, but you will certainly do something out of the ordinary. Try though to look ahead and see what the consequences might be.

♍ Virgo
Aug. 24 - Sept. 23
You could easily impose your will on other people today but is that such a good idea? A little bit of thought should help you see that if you come on too strong you'll lose.

♎ Libra
Sept. 24 - Oct. 23
Do you let your heart rule your head today? It might be a smart idea as with mind planet Mercury still moving retrograde your thoughts may be all over the place. What does your inner voice tell you?

♏ Scorpio
Oct. 24 - Nov. 22
There is no point trying to coerce people whose worldview is completely different to your own. All that does is make them oppose you even more. Accept that you see things differently.

♐ Sagittarius
Nov. 23 - Dec. 21
There is a danger that you will bounce back and forth between two extremes today. It may not bother you much but it could turn important people against you, so think before you act.

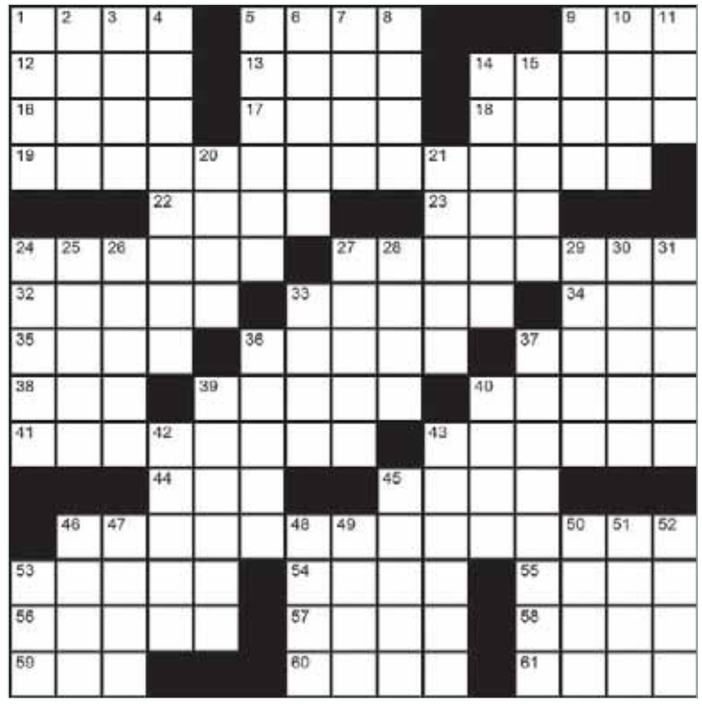
♑ Capricorn
Dec. 22 - Jan. 20
Even if you disagree strongly with what loved ones are up to right now, you are advised to gloss over the fact and stay on good terms. It gives you a bargaining chip for later.

♒ Aquarius
Jan. 21 - Feb. 19
Feelings will be running high today and you may wish you could switch off the world. So why don't you? While everyone else is busy arguing you can sneak off.

♓ Pisces
Feb. 20 - March 20
A relationship may be going through a tough time but don't give up on it. Love planet Venus in your sign links to both Saturn and Pluto today, which means you are nowhere near the end of the road yet. SALLY BROMPTON

Crossword: Canada Across and Down

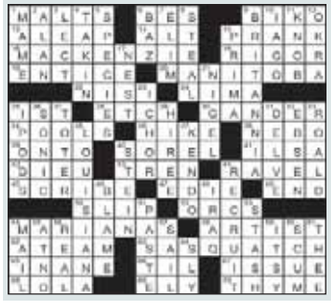
BY KELLY ANN BUCHANAN



Across
1. Eddie Cochran's "__ Everybody"
5. Fuel additives at Indy
9. Gore and Biden, e.g.
12. Two notes to follow Do
13. Road type
14. Town __ (News-giver of yore)
16. __ instant (Quickly): 2 wds.
17. Toward shelter (Sailing term)
18. Moms of cousins
19. "Break It to Them Gently" singer/songwriter: 2 wds.
22. Hosp. readouts
23. Mr. Garfunkel
24. Purple dinosaur
27. Vancouver-born actor Ryan
32. "She's _ __" by Tom Jones
33. Shoe parts
34. Cool, retro-style
35. Intl. alliance created in 1949
36. "You've Got Mail" recipient
37. Ceremonial staff
38. Nice summer?
39. Gwyneth's "Shakespeare in Love" (1998) role
40. Stone worker
41. Sittings
43. Actor Mr. Depardieu
44. 'Mich' add-on (Mr. Douglas)
45. Very: French
46. "The Safety Dance" group: 3 wds.
53. Potato pancake
54. 1994 Pulp album: __ '_' Hers
55. Actress Jessica
56. "Drive __" by The Beatles: 2 wds.
57. Don't give _ __ (Care less)
58. TV producer Norman
59. Refusals
60. Telegram
61. Ms. Flynn Boyle

Down
1. House, hip-style
2. Restaurant dish lister
3. Actor Mr. Epps
4. Big name in video games
5. Like 'groovy' for 'great'
6. Powders
7. Tire: French
8. Appear
9. Actor Mr. Rhames
10. Dogs and cats
11. Lon Chaney and Douglas Fairbanks, e.g., to their sons
14. Terrier dogs from Scotland
15. "__ __ You" by Bryan Adams
20. __-dokey
21. Singer/guitarist John
24. Scourges
25. Having wings
26. Appraises
27. Breadbasket items
28. Zeno of __ (Ancient Greek philosopher)
29. __ Apso (Dog from Tibet)
30. Designer's talent
31. Fork out
33. Shortly
36. Garlic sauce
37. Amanda __ ("Let It Rain" singer from Toronto)
39. TV show fan
40. "__ the Parents" (2000)
42. Coffee brand
43. '90s music genre
45. "__ __, with Love" (1967)
46. Deli dressing
47. And so on, plurally [abbr.]
48. Get out the freeze
49. __-__ (Sound system)
50. Epithet for Athena
51. Skier's up-the-slopes ride
52. Ms. Gilbert
53. K-O link

Yesterday's Crossword



Sudoku

How to play
Fill in the grid, so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1-9. There is no math involved.

	4	8				9	1	
			1		5			
7	2			6			4	5
		5	3		4	6		
4								3
		3	2		7	1		
9	5			7			3	1
			8		2			
	7	4				2	6	

Yesterday's Sudoku

1	8	7	2	3	5	4	6	9
9	2	3	1	4	6	5	8	7
5	6	4	8	7	9	3	1	2
2	7	8	5	1	4	6	9	3
3	9	1	6	8	7	2	4	5
6	4	5	9	2	3	1	7	8
4	5	2	7	6	8	9	3	1
7	3	9	4	5	1	8	2	6
8	1	6	3	9	2	7	5	4

Today
2°/-3°
Rain and snow
40%

Friday
3°/-4°
Partly cloudy

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The Weather Network HD

TWN incorporates MSC data

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0%† FINANCING FOR UP TO **84** MONTHS

OR GET UP TO **$10,000** IN PRICE ADJUSTMENTSΩ

ON SELECT MODELS

Limited model shown

2013 SANTA FE 2.4L FWD

SELLING PRICE: $28,395* SANTA FE 2.4L FWD AUTO. DELIVERY, DESTINATION & FEES INCLUDED. PLUS HST.

HWY: **6.7**L/100 KM
CITY: **10.1**L/100 KM▼

2013 CANADIAN UTILITY VEHICLE OF THE YEAR

OWN IT FOR	WITH	AND	OR	GET UP TO
$168 BI-WEEKLY	**1.99%†** FINANCING FOR **84** MONTHS	**$0** DOWN PAYMENT		**$2,000** IN PRICE ADJUSTMENTSΩ ON SELECT TRIMS

GLS model shown

HWY: **5.3**L/100 KM
CITY: **7.1**L/100 KM▼

2013 ACCENT L

SELLING PRICE: $14,930* ACCENT 4 DR L 6-SPEED MANUAL. DELIVERY, DESTINATION & FEES INCLUDED. PLUS HST.

2012 BEST NEW SMALL CAR (UNDER $21K)

OWN IT FOR	WITH	AND	OR	GET UP TO
$82 BI-WEEKLY	**0%†** FINANCING FOR **84** MONTHS	**$0** DOWN PAYMENT		**$1,250** IN PRICE ADJUSTMENTSΩ ON SELECT TRIMS

INCLUDES **$750** IN PRICE ADJUSTMENTSΩ

SE with Tech. shown

HWY: **5.3**L/100 KM
CITY: **7.8**L/100 KM▼

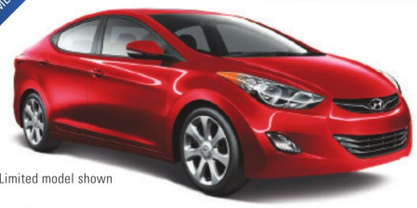
2013 ELANTRA GT GL

SELLING PRICE: $20,030* ELANTRA GT GL 6-SPEED MANUAL. DELIVERY, DESTINATION, FEES & $750 IN PRICE ADJUSTMENTSΩ INCLUDED. PLUS HST.

2013 BEST NEW SMALL CAR (OVER $21K)

OWN IT FOR	WITH	AND	OR	GET UP TO
$111 BI-WEEKLY	**0%†** FINANCING FOR **84** MONTHS	**$0** DOWN PAYMENT		**$2,000** IN PRICE ADJUSTMENTSΩ ON SELECT TRIMS

INCLUDES **$500** IN PRICE ADJUSTMENTSΩ



Limited model shown

HWY: **5.2**L/100 KM
CITY: **7.1**L/100 KM▼

2013 ELANTRA L

SELLING PRICE: $16,980* ELANTRA L 6-SPEED MANUAL. DELIVERY, DESTINATION, FEES & $500 IN PRICE ADJUSTMENTSΩ INCLUDED. PLUS HST.

2012 CANADIAN & NORTH AMERICAN CAR OF THE YEAR

OWN IT FOR	WITH	AND	OR	GET UP TO
$94 BI-WEEKLY	**0%†** FINANCING FOR **84** MONTHS	**$0** DOWN PAYMENT		**$1,750** IN PRICE ADJUSTMENTSΩ ON SELECT TRIMS

Limited model shown

HWY: **7.7**L/100 KM
CITY: **10.4**L/100 KM▼

2013 TUCSON L

SELLING PRICE: $21,895* TUCSON L 5-SPEED MANUAL. DELIVERY, DESTINATION & FEES INCLUDED. PLUS HST.

OWN IT FOR	WITH	AND	OR	GET UP TO
$125 BI-WEEKLY	**0.99%†** FINANCING FOR **84** MONTHS	**$0** DOWN PAYMENT		**$2,500** IN PRICE ADJUSTMENTSΩ ON SELECT TRIMS

5 YEAR WARRANTY 100,000 KM COMPREHENSIVE LIMITED WARRANTY††

5-year/100,000 km Comprehensive Limited Warranty
5-year/100,000 km Powertrain Warranty
5-year/100,000 km Emission Warranty

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™The Hyundai names, logos, product names, feature names, images and slogans are trademarks owned by Hyundai Auto Canada Corp. †Finance offers available O.A.C. from Hyundai Financial Services based on a new 2013 Santa Fe 2.4L FWD Auto/Accent 4 Door L 6-Speed Manual/Elantra GT GL 6-Speed Manual (includes $750 in price adjustments)/Elantra L 6-Speed Manual (includes $500 in price adjustments)/ Tucson L 5-Speed Manual with an annual finance rate of 1.99%/0%/0%/0%/0.99% for 84 months. Bi-weekly payments are $168/$82/$111/$94/$125. No down payment required. Cost of Borrowing is $2,048/$0/$0/$0/$777. Finance offers include Delivery and Destination of $1,760/$1,495/$1,495/$1,495/$1,760 fees, levies, and all applicable charges (excluding HST). Finance Offers exclude registration, insurance, PPSA and license fees. Delivery and destination charge includes freight, P.D.E., dealer admin fees and a full tank of gas. Financing example: 2013 Elantra L 6-Speed Manual for $16,980 at 0% per annum equals $94 bi-weekly for 84 months for a total obligation of $16,980. Cash price is $16,980. Cost of Borrowing is $0. Example price includes $500 in price adjustments, Delivery and Destination of $1,495, fees, levies, and all applicable charges (excluding HST). Example price excludes registration, insurance, PPSA and license fees. Delivery and destination charge includes freight, P.D.E., dealer admin fees and a full tank of gas. ▼Fuel consumption for 2013 Santa Fe 2.4L FWD Auto (HWY 6.7L/100KM, City 10.1L/100KM)/2013 Accent 4 Door L 6-Speed Manual (HWY 5.3L/100KM; City 7.1L/100KM)/2013 Elantra GT GL 6-Speed Manual (HWY 5.3L/100KM; City 7.8L/100KM)/ Elantra Sedan L 6-Speed Manual (HWY 5.2L/100KM; City 7.1L/100KM)/2013 Tucson L 5-Speed Manual (HWY 7.7L/100KM, City 10.4L/100KM) are based on Manufacturer Testing. Actual fuel efficiency may vary based on driving conditions and the addition of certain vehicle accessories. Fuel economy figures are used for comparison purposes only. ♦Price of models shown 2013 Santa Fe 2.0T Limited AWD/Accent 4 Door GLS Auto/Elantra GT SE Tech 6-Speed Auto/Elantra Limited/Tucson Limited AWD is $40,395/$20,230/$27,980/$24,930/$34,245. Prices include Delivery and Destination charges of $1,760/$1,495/$1,495/$1,495/$1,760, fees, levies, and all applicable charges (excluding HST). Prices exclude registration, insurance, PPSA and license fees. ΩPrice adjustments are calculated against the vehicle's starting price. Price adjustments of up to $2,000/$1,250/$2,000/$1,750/$2,500 available on 2013 Santa Fe/Accent 4 Door/Elantra GT/ Elantra Sedan/Tucson with the exception of the base models (2013 Santa Fe 2.4L FWD Auto/Accent 4 Door L 6-Speed Manual/Elantra GT GL 6-Speed Manual/Elantra L 6-Speed Manual/Tucson L 5-Speed Manual); however the price adjustments of $750/$500 for the Elantra GT GL 6-Speed Manual/Elantra L 6-Speed Manual are available in the finance offers set forth above. Price adjustments applied before taxes. Offer cannot be combined or used in conjunction with any other available offers. Offer is non-transferable and cannot be assigned. No vehicle trade-in required. †Ω♦Offers available for a limited time, and subject to change or cancellation without notice. See dealer for complete details. Dealer may sell for less. Inventory is limited, dealer order may be required. ††Hyundai's Comprehensive Limited Warranty coverage covers most vehicle components against defects in workmanship under normal use and maintenance conditions.